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Colts quarterback Peyton Manning

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Radioactive fallout suit: Idaho residents who believe Cold War nuclear testing harmed their health will testify before a National Academy of Sciences panel to say they should be included in a federal compensation program. About 150 Idaho residents have written to the board to argue that radioactive fallout from atmospheric testing in Nevada in the 1950s and 1960s also affected Idaho. The academy's Board on Radiation Effects Research scheduled the hearing for Nov. 6.

The board will release a report in March that will recommend whether the government should expand the compensation program.

World

Greek airliner: A police search concluded there was no threat to a Greek airliner forced to make an emergency landing in Britain after a bomb alert, officers said Monday.

Police searched the Airbus A340 airliner and the luggage of some 300 passengers for six hours after the Olympic Airlines plane landed with a fighter jet escort at Stansted airport north of London on Sunday.

But police found no evidence of a bomb, and the airliner will continue its journey from Athens to New York.

Police said "well rehearsed procedures" were followed after an anonymous call to a Greek newspaper said there was a bomb on board Olympic Airlines flight 411 from Athens to New York's JFK Airport.

Russian reforms: President Vladimir Putin put sweeping political reforms in motion Monday, sending to Russia's parliament a bill on eliminating the popular election of regional governors and district parliament members.

Putin has explained the proposal is a necessary response to the Beslan school hostage seizure and other terror attacks, saying a strong federal government is needed to fend off threats. His opponents describe the reform as a deadly blow to Russia's fledgling democracy.

The motion would abolish popular elections of regional governors, who instead would be nominated by the president and confirmed by local legislatures — a move critics said would further strengthen an authoritarian streak in the Kremlin's policy.

Bosnian war crime suspects: Faced with U.S. and European Union demands to extradite top war crime suspects to a U.N. tribunal, the Serbian and Bosnian Serb presi-



West Bank raids: During an army operation in the West Bank town of Jenin on Monday, Palestinian youths try to steal parts from an Israeli armored vehicle after a soldier within opened fire in the air through a cracked hatch. Israeli troops hunting militants raided a West Bank hospital Monday, searching rooms and calling on witnesses over loudspeakers to surrender, but they left without making any arrests, fugitives said.

dents on Monday pledged to step up efforts to finally arrest the fugitives.

Serbian President Boris Tadic, speaking after talks with Bosnian Serb President Dragan Covic, said that "the suspects must be extradited to The Hague tribunal to face justice ... there is no dilemma about that."

Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, his top general, are the U.N. tribunal's most-wanted suspects.

Karadzic is believed to be hiding in the half of Bosnia controlled by the Serbs, while Mladic is thought to be hiding in Serbia.

Cable-car fire trial: Prosecutors in Salzburg, Austria, on Monday appealed eight of 16 acquittals in a trial of suspects in an alpine cable-car fire that killed 155 people in January 2000.

At the end of the trial in February, prosecutors had said immediately that they would appeal the verdicts, and lawyers for the victims' families said they would continue civil proceedings seeking millions of dollars in compensation.

Under Austrian law, lawyers for the defendants affected by the appeal now must come forward with their reactions. The lawyers normally would have only two weeks to respond, but APA quoted some of the attorneys as saying they would seek three months to state their case.

Japanese kidnappings: Japan could consider economic sanctions against impoverished North Korea to force it to provide more details about Japanese citizens it kidnapped in the 1970s and 80s, Japan's new foreign minister said Monday.

North Korea has admitted to kidnapping 13 Japanese citizens to teach its spies, and

released five of them in 2002. Pyongyang says eight other victims have died, but has refused to respond to Tokyo's demands for details of their fate to allay suspicions they are still alive.

The two sides met in Beijing over the weekend, but Japan said the North had not investigated its claims sufficiently and Tokyo demanded more detailed reports.

Indonesian torture: Indonesian security forces in Aceh province are systematically torturing suspected rebels, including subjecting them to electric shock, the New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report Monday.

The allegations, based on interviews with 35 rebels being held in Indonesian jails, were denied by military officials in the province on the northern tip of Sumatra island.

The 50-page report highlights the challenges facing Indonesia's next president, former military general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who has said resolving the 28-year-long conflict will be a priority when he takes office next month.

Swedish politician's death: Sweden's Supreme Court said Monday it will hear an appeal from Nov. 10-12 to reinstate the prison sentence for the man convicted of killing Foreign Minister Anna Lindh.

Mijailo Mijailovic was convicted in March of fatally stabbing Lindh on Sept. 10, 2003, as she shopped unguarded in a downtown department store. But his life prison sentence was changed to psychiatric care after he appealed.

The Supreme Court will decide if that appeals court ruling should stand, spokeswoman Synneve Gustavsson said.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Correction

A story in Sunday's editions about changes in the price of gas sold through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service included some incorrect information. Prices for the Azores and Turkey are increasing by about 10 cents a gallon as their prices are changed from annual to monthly adjustments.

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Access Equals Freedom

Germans seek public scolding of Peters

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The labor union representing some 150 German workers employed by the U.S. Army has called for a public denouncement of Ralph Peters by top U.S. military and German leaders Tuesday in Heidelberg.

Peters, a controversial author and lecturer, is an invited guest speaker at the Army's three-day Land Combat Expo, which begins Tuesday in Heidelberg.

Peters, a retired Army lieutenant colonel who served in Germany for 10 years, enraged German civilians who work for the U.S. military with a New York Post column last month harshly critical of their performance while calling for a withdrawal of U.S. forces from the country.

The truth is that American tax dollars go to lazy, arrogant, corrupt German employees who work on our bases and over whom we have little control," he wrote. The column was laced with similar comments on German landlords, politicians and other segments of German society.

In response, the German Head Works Council for U.S. Air Force Europe, which represents workers in labor issues at the Army's headquarters for Europe in Heidelberg, has asked the USAFREUR commander, Gen. B.B. Bell, to publicly denounce Peters.

"We are trying to get our employer [the U.S. Army] to not give Mr. Peters a platform for such propaganda," said Andreas

Labor union calls on USAFREUR to denounce author, cancel speech

Rogel, the council vice chairman.

He said similar requests were sent to the German ministries of defense and foreign affairs.

The workers union also has called on Bell to withdraw Peters' invitation to the expo, Rogel said.

Bell's deputy, Lt. Gen. William Ward, is drafting a response, said Bell's spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Jane Crichton, adding that Peters remains an invited guest.

German defense and foreign ministry officials were unable to comment by deadline.

The request from the union comes in the wake of a boycott of the expo by the German military. The German army, which was providing displays of tanks and other military hardware for the third year in a row, announced last week it was withdrawing in protest of Peters' appearance.

Meanwhile, rank and file German workers say they're outraged at Peters' comments.

"I was so upset when I read his column," said Annemarie Fritz, who works at Heidelberg's family housing office. "For sure, every country has its bad apples, but he was completely unfair to us."

Fritz, 53, is the German president of

KONTAKT, the German-American International Friendship Club, which has 1,400 members with clubs in 16 communities throughout Germany.

Fritz said she hopes to talk to Peters.

"I'm not afraid of him," she said. "For more than 10 years I've worked thousands of hours volunteering for the U.S. military. I want to show him we are not the way he thinks."

"What he wrote was [expletive]," said Wolfgang Mechler, another Heidelberg-area military employee. "A lot of the local nationals have been very upset about this."

Mechler said when the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks occurred, thousands of Germans offered spontaneous gifts of support along with flowers, cards and candles at bases throughout the country.

"He's what we call a 'Scharfmacher,'" Mechler said of Peters, searching for the word in English, "an extremist." The word is typically translated "agitator."

Other people, however, have voiced support for Peters.



Peters

"This is just the tip of the iceberg, we could go on for hours on this," David Simmons wrote in an e-mail supporting Peters.

Simmons, a U.S. civilian working at the 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany, added, "I think these feelings have always been there, but no one said anything. Everyone on both sides kept their thoughts and feelings under the table."

Peters has toned down some of his comments since the ruckus began.

"Certainly, there are honest, hard-working German employees serving our military," Peters told Stars and Stripes on Saturday. "But could a single one of them deny that he or she has seen other German employees engaging in corrupt or dishonest acts, in favoritism or in simply shirking..."

And he stands by what he wrote.

"The fundamental problem isn't what I said," Peters said. "The German reaction has been so fierce because they know it's essentially true. Lies might be brushed off, but the truth hurts. And the Germans have grown accustomed to Americans giving in, time after time, to maintain 'good German-American relations.'"

"That's over. ... By attacking us so disgracefully before, during and after the Iraq war, the Germans squandered their credit."

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Navy offers online service for moving

Stars and Stripes

Navy sailors and their families can now arrange household goods shipments from Bahrain, Diego Garcia or Guam online instead of making a trip to their local personal property office.

SMART WebMove allows eligible Navy personnel to arrange routine moves from their current duty station to their new base in the continental United States and some overseas locations.

In the past, most sailors had to make an appointment with the local personal property office to fill out a lot of paperwork before shipping their household goods.

The SMART WebMove program, managed by the Naval Supply Systems Command, aims to make the application process easier and faster.

Sailors can access SMART WebMove at www.smartwebmove.navy.mil. New users must set up a user account before getting started. Then, they enter the pick-up and delivery information. A personal property office representative will go through the application and notify the servicemember by e-mail of the pick-up date and the name of the moving company.

Permanent-change-of-station orders, proof of dependents and an e-mail address are required. If someone else is arranging the move, a current power of attorney will be needed.

More than 36,000 applicants have been processed using SMART WebMove since the Navy rolled it out in 2001, according to a Naval Supply Systems Command press release. The program is available at bases in the United States, Japan, Singapore, Italy, Portugal, Spain, England, Iceland, Greece and Cuba.

AF post offices honor stamp collecting month

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

October is for philatelists.

To honor National Stamp Collecting Month of October, some post offices at U.S. Air Force Europe bases are offering special stamps and hosting field trips for children.

"We leave that up to each post office," said Steve Waller, project coordinator for the 2nd Air Postal Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

"Each post office will be kind of unique. Some have stamp collectors in the area who put out displays of their collections. Some locations ... set up tours of their post office for elementary schoolkids."

This is the 10th year that USAFE is observing the occasion, Waller said.

Some of the special stamps being issued this year for the first time include ones that depict Dis-



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A depiction of the new World War II memorial in Washington, D.C., is among the commemorative stamps available at Air Force post offices during National Stamp Collecting Month in October.

ney art; Dr. Seuss' 100th anniversary; the new World War II memorial in Washington, D.C.; the Greece Summer Olympics; and the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expeditions.

"We'll have about 30 different

items to present to the customers," Waller said. "We're recommending that post offices come up with different ways to give items away — drawings or stamp-design contests."

"Customers can contact local postmasters to see what's going on in their area."

Collecting stamps is a good way to learn about history and geography, especially for people who grow up in military households and travel around the world, according to Army Col. John Dabrowski of the U.S. European Command's History Office in Stuttgart, Germany.

"I've been collecting stamps since I was 12," Dabrowski said. "I got a stamp album as a gift from my aunt."

"Over the last 37 years it was my addres to the world, collecting from various countries. When I went to Hong Kong and Japan, I went out of my way to find a post office to pick up stamps."

Dabrowski said he has recently picked up the 2003 Germany stamp album from the main post office on Königstrasse in downtown Stuttgart, as well as some 2004 French stamps during a visit to Alsace.

"Some people collect stamps [by topic], and my collection has a military theme," said Dabrowski, of Fort Walton Beach, Fla. "I've got a lot of stamps from the Third Reich era."

"But if something [nonmilitary] catches my eye, I'll pick it up."

Waller said that avid collectors and beginners could find stamps they want.

"Most of the post offices in USAFE stock different commemorative stamps when they are released," he said. "If they're not available at the post office, people can go online and order stamps from [the United States Postal Service]."

E-mail Charlie Coon at:
coon@mail.estripes.osd.mil

MSC Europe to see change of command

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Capt. David K. Wright will assume command of the Naples-based Military Sealift Command, Europe, from Capt. Dirk P. Deverill during a ceremony Wednesday on the Capodichino base.

Wright reports to MSC after serving in the Force Structure, Resources and Assessment Directorate of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. Deverill will move to the secretary of defense staff at NATO in Brussels, Belgium.

MSC Europe and its permanent staff of about 50 military and civilian personnel are responsible for the transport of equipment, fuel, supplies and ammunition for U.S. forces throughout the U.S. European Command's area of responsibility.

It also provides at-sea fuel and supplies for six fleet and NATO ships in the region.

Many of the supplies and equipment used in Operation Iraqi Freedom came through Military Sealift Command, Europe, including thousands of tons of combat

equipment for V Corps and the 4th Infantry Division.

The command also controls Maritime Prepositioning Ship Squadron One, whose Mediterranean-based ships carry enough combat and supplies to support U.S. Marine Corps air/ground task force of up to 18,000 Marines for a month of combat operations.

In addition to its Naples headquarters, the command has offices in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and Souda Bay, Crete, plus personnel in London and Rota, Spain.



Capt. David K. Wright

Report: Army could shorten combat tours

Stars and Stripes

The Army is considering cutting the length of its 12-month combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, senior Army officials have told *The New York Times*.

Senior Army personnel officers, as well as top Army Reserve and National Guard officials, say the Army's ability to recruit and retain soldiers will erode unless tours are shortened, to between six and nine months, roughly equivalent to the seven-month tours that are the norm in the Marine Corps, the *Times* reported in its Monday editions.

But other Army officials responsible for combat operations and war planning have significant concerns that the Army — at its current size and as now configured — cannot meet projected requirements for Iraq and Afghanistan unless active duty and reserve troops spend 12 months on the ground.

Officials propose 6- to 9-month deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan; other officials hesitant

Officials told the *Times* it is too early to predict if or when a new deployment policy might take effect. But the proposal collides with the need to maintain troop strength in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Army planners say they must at least prepare for the possibility that it will be necessary to keep troops at the current levels in Iraq — 138,000 — through 2007, even though no political decision has been made in that regard.

The prospect of lengthy combat tours already appears to be affecting recruitment. The Guard had set a goal of 56,000 recruits for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, but is likely to end up with about 51,000, he said.

It would be the first time since 1994 that the Guard has missed its signup goal, the paper reported.

"The Army definitely wants to reduce the stress on the force," a senior Army official told Reuters news service. "Recruiting and retention are of concern. But we're nowhere near the panic state."

The official told Reuters that there was concern among some in the Army that this step could undermine units on the battlefield and that any change might be at least two years away.

"Shorter tours cause more turbulence," with more soldiers in transit to and from the combat zones, the official said.

"It affects cohesiveness. It affects their ability to conduct their duty in a combat zone by knowing the terrain, knowing the enemy and knowing who is friendly. People come in and they'll be friendly to get out."

About 40 percent of U.S. troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are National Guard and Reserve part-time troops summoned to active duty from civilian life, Reuters noted Monday.

In addition, the Army has issued "stop-loss" orders preventing tens of thousands of soldiers designated to serve in Iraq or Afghanistan from leaving the military if their volunteer service commitment ends during their deployment.

The Army last year began requiring its soldiers to serve 12-month stints in Iraq as Pentagon plans to scale back the number of U.S. troops there were scuttled by the reality of a tenuous and spreading insurgency.

More guardsmen, reservists noting job troubles after returning from war

Labor Department drafts proposed regulations to spell out rights of troops

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — An increasing number of guardsmen and reservists are returning home from war to find they no longer have their jobs, or have been snubbed for promotions and raises in spite of a 1994 law that protects them, Labor Department officials said.

An increase in complaints prompted the department to submit proposed regulations that both clarify and better enforce the law, the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act of 1994.

It also launched an education campaign for employers and employers on protections afforded under the USERRA, which prohibits the firing of a member of the reserve component, passing them up for promotions, or not paying benefits just because he or she is called to active duty.

Usually, violations are rectified easily, said a spokesman for the Labor Department.

"The biggest problem was a lack of understanding, and once they were told of the laws, employers almost always did the right thing," a Labor Department official said.

However, 6 percent to 8 percent of the average 1,000 complaints filed over the past few years were resolved only after the aggrieved took the matter to the judicial system, the spokesman said.

That's a percentage too high for Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

"We've been hearing about the Guard and Reserve coming home from serving their country, from having been in Iraq and harm's way, and not having a job, and this has concerned the senator," said press secretary Sarah Feinberg. "While a lot of employers are doing a lot ... one service member who loses his or her job is one too many."

The Labor Department published a draft of regulations in the Federal Register on Sept. 20. It will be open for public comment for 60 days; after which officials

How to deal with employment problems

Here is a "game plan" for Reserve or National Guard members who are having mobilization-related problems with their regular employer. Lt. Cmdr. Mark Shelley, ombudsman for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in Arlington, Va., wrote this guide.

1. Go to your company's human resources or personnel department. These people are more familiar with the law than first-line supervisors. Once the human resources manager knows you have a problem, he or she can often resolve it with one or two phone calls.

"If you work for an organization that does not have a human resources point of contact, or if that individual can't or won't help you; or if you are already in the job, go to:

2. Your unit's commanding officer. Any CO of the Guard or Reserve has the responsibility to help his or her people with employer conflicts, questions or disputes.

"If your CO can't help you, or if you are the commanding officer who needs guidance to help one of your unit's members, go to:

3. Your local representative of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. To find that

person, go to www.esgr.org, which lists contacts by state. If you do not have access to the Internet, call ESGR's national headquarters (800) 336-4590. An ESGR representative will tell you whom to contact in your home state.

"If ESGR's state and national network of professional advisors, mediators and "Mission One" volunteers can't get results, they will then recommend your case to:

4. The Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment Training Service, Division of Enforcement. The Labor Department, backed by the Justice Department, is authorized to take legal action against employers violating the laws that protect activated Guard and Reserve members. If your employer is breaking the law, they will bring the full weight of the U.S. government to bear on your case.

"If you are not happy with the results of the Labor Department's intervention, the final resort is to:

5. Hire a private attorney at your own expense. Not often, but sometimes, employers are able to make a legally defensible case to the Labor Department that justifies their failure to reinstate Guard or Reserve employees after a call-up. If the decision does not go in your favor, your last recourse is a civil lawsuit.

— Lisa Burgess

will consider the comments before implementing the final regulation.

Some of the proposed regulations further define discrimination and spell out burden of proof and protections afforded employees.

"These regulations will spell out the rights of our returning servicemen and women and the responsibilities of employers to honor their service," Labor Secretary Elaine Chao said in a statement. "This administration will back up these first-time-ever USERRA regulations with aggressive outreach and enforcement."

Compared to pre-global war on terror figures, the massive activation boosted the number of complaints filed to the Labor Department by 35 percent in fiscal 2002, and another 10 percent in fiscal 2003, with 1,195 and 1,315 complaints, respectively.

As of Thursday, a total of 427,303 guardsmen and reservists have been mobilized for war on terror since Sept. 11, 2001. Of that total, 164,095 are mobilized today.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at jontzs@stripes.osd.mil. The regulation can be viewed and comments submitted online at www.regulations.gov and entering VETS-U-04 in the keyword section.

DODDS seeks business leaders for conference

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

Organizers of a DODDS-Europe youth leadership conference are asking business professionals with expertise in various areas, such as public speaking and interviewing techniques, to volunteer as presenters.

The European chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America is hosting its annual fall conference Oct. 28 at the Village Pavilion at Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg, Germany. The event lasts from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Students "react very, very positive to the conference," said Robert Lykins, student activities coordinator for Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe. "It's the kids who actually run the thing."

But a key component of the conference is the presenters.

DODDS figures it needs at least a dozen presenters. Typically, about 150 students attend the fall conference, which is more instructional in nature than the spring gathering.

"We're always looking for presenters," Lykins said.

Persons with expertise in various areas are needed to volunteer time and talents to lead presentations in the following categories: business dress for success; teamwork; positive attitude and motivation; publicity and public relations; marketing and advertising directed toward teenagers; public speaking; impromptu speaking; personality inventories and application to the workplace; dealing with stress; leadership skills in management; office decision-making; entrepreneurship; and job interview skills.

And Lykins added, "we could always use folks who can talk about technology and technology's affect on business."

In addition, a motivational speaker is needed for the opening session. A 15-minute speech about becoming business leaders of the future would be a good topic. Lunch is provided for presenters.

Anyone interested in being a presenter should contact Bertha Manning by Friday at: Bertha_Manning@eoddedodea.edu

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.esstripes.osd.mil

7 Iraqi guardsmen killed by car bombs

BY KIM HOUSEGO
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two car bombs killed seven Iraqi national guardsmen and a rocket barrage hit a police academy Monday as insurgents kept up their offensive to subdue Iraq's beleaguered security forces. U.S. jets pounded suspected militant positions in a Baghdad slum.

Two U.S. soldiers with the 1st Infantry Division were killed in separate incidents Monday near Balad, north of the capital. The first died in a car crash and the second was killed when a patrol came under fire as it returned from the crash, the military said.

More than 1,040 U.S. military members have died since the start of U.S. operations in Iraq in March 2003.

The American attack took place before dawn in the Sadr City neighborhood, where residents said explosions lit up the night sky for hours, leaving a trail of mangled vehicles, damaged buildings and shards of glass. At least two children wrapped in bloodstained bandages could be seen lying in hospital beds and one man suffered burns from head to toe.

Dr. Qassem Saddam of the Imam Ali hospital said the strikes killed at least five people and wounded 46 — including 15 women and nine children. The U.S. military said the claim of such high casualties was "suspect."

"Early indications are that injuries to a large group of people as a result of this engagement did not occur," the military said in a statement. However, the military said it was opening an internal investigation to determine what happened.

In Sam Hutton, a U.S. Army spokesman, said insurgents also fired three mortar rounds at a nearby Army base, but the shells fell



Local residents look at the remains of a car bomb after it exploded as a seven-vehicle Iraqi National Guard patrol was passing by Monday in Mosul, Iraq. Seven guardsmen were killed, police said.

short and exploded in a civilian neighborhood. It was not clear if any of the casualties in Sadr City were from the insurgents' shells.

U.S. warplanes struck again late Monday, residents said. Loud explosions echoed through the neighborhood, but there was no immediate word on casualties.

The military has launched a sweeping crackdown against Shiite fighters loyal to renegade cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in the sprawling slum — named after the cleric's late father — in an effort to dismantle his militia before elections slated for January.

Those elections are central to a U.S. exit strategy from Iraq, as is the development of a strong Iraqi National Guard. The United States is trying to build a security force capable of taking over security operations in many towns and cities, thus allowing the Pentagon to re-

duce the number of American troops.

The first car bomb Monday struck a seven-vehicle national guard patrol in the northeastern city of Mosul, killing at least four guardsmen and wounding three others, police said. Gunmen followed up the blast with a burst of automatic weapons fire before fleeing.

A suicide attacker later detonated an explosives-packed vehicle at a national guard checkpoint near the Sunni insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, killing at least three guardsmen and wounding several other people, police said.

U.S. warplanes were spotted over Fallujah last Monday.

Residents said they fired at least three rockets at northern parts of the city, but U.S. Marine officers said only illumination rounds were fired. There were no immediate re-

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,042 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 792 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update Saturday.

The British military has reported 65 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 904 U.S. military members have died — 683 as a result of hostile action and 221 of nonhostile causes, according to the military.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identification reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Aaron Boyles, 24, Alameda, Calif.; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

■ Marine Sgt. Timothy Shane Folmar, 21, Sonoma, Texas; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine 2nd Lt. Ryan Leduc, 28, Pana, Ill.; died Friday as a result of a noncombat vehicle accident in Rutbah, Iraq; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Ramon Mateo, 20, Suffolk County, N.Y.; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Headquarters and Service Company, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

ports of casualties.

With civil servants and security personnel dying every day in attacks, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's Cabinet announced it had adopted a draft resolution to compensate families of those "killed by terrorist acts" — an ap-

parent effort to encourage government employees to keep working.

If ratified by the national assembly, families of victims will receive a monthly allowance equal to the full salary of the dead person, the Cabinet said. It was not clear how long the payments would last.

Kidnapped Iranian diplomat freed after 57 days

BY SCIEHEREZADE FARAMARZI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A kidnapped Iranian diplomat was released Monday after nearly two months in captivity, the Iranian Embassy said.

Fereidoun Jahani, the Iranian consul in Karbala, spent 57 days in captivity after he was seized by a group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq, which accused Iran of meddling in Iraq's affairs.

The newly freed Jahani arrived at the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad on Monday afternoon and was in good health, said Abbas

Attar, director of the Iranian ambassador's office in Baghdad.

Attar said the captors demanded Iran release Iraqi prisoners of war from the Iran-Iraq conflict of the 1980s and that the Iranian government stop interfering in Iraq's internal affairs. He was released after 55 days when the Teheran government said it held no Iraqi POWs and "when they (captors) realized Iran's active role in helping the Iraqi people," Attar said. He said that no ransom was paid.

Iran and Iraq have exchanged thousands of prisoners and remains of dead soldiers since the war ended in 1988 but a number of

former combatants are still missing.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement Monday that the diplomat was released after persistent diplomatic efforts and cooperation of Iraqi officials.

Jahani was abducted in early August while traveling between Baghdad and Karbala.

"During the first days, their (kidnappers) relations with me was not good and they were tense," Jahani told reporters after his release. "After they knew from the Iranian government that it is not holding any Iraqi prisoners of war they started treating me well." He said they posed no other demands.

Jahani said he did not know where he was held, but Attar said Jahani was released in Fallujah, the Sunni insurgent-controlled city west of Baghdad.

The Islamic Army in Iraq, which claimed to be holding him in a video released Aug. 7, also has claimed to be holding two French journalists, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, who disappeared Aug. 20 during a trip to the southern Iraqi city of Najaf. The group demanded that France revoke a new law banning Islamic head scarves from state schools. The law went into effect as planned, and there has been no word since on the two French.

2 GIs charged in Iraqi's death

BAGHDAD — Two U.S. soldiers have been charged with murder in the death of an Iraqi civilian, the 1st Cavalry Division announced Monday.

A military statement identified the soldiers as Staff Sgt. Johnny Horne Jr. and Staff Sgt. Cardenas Alban, both from Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment from Fort Riley, Kan.

The military declined to provide details about the case, saying an investigation is ongoing.

But the statement said the alleged incidents are not related to murder charges filed against Sgt. Michael Williams and Spc. Brent May, from the same unit. They were

charged in the deaths of three Iraqis, the military announced last week. Williams was also charged with obstruction of justice and making a false official statement, the military said.

Monday's charges were the third set of murder charges filed in just over two weeks against soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry.

England court-martial set for January

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Pfc. Lynndie England will be court-martialed in January on charges stemming from the abuse of Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison, the Army announced Monday.

A motions hearing is scheduled for Dec. 1-3, with the

trial scheduled for Jan. 17-28, according to Lt. Gen. John Sines, commander of the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg.

England, a 21-year-old reservist stationed at Fort Bragg who is seen in some of the most notorious photos taken at the prison, was arrested in May. She did not end a plea.

If convicted of 19 counts, she could receive up to 38 years in jail, a dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Among the charges England faces is conspiring to commit maltreatment of Iraqi detainees by posing in a photograph holding a leash around the detainee, indecent acts with numerous soldiers and wrongfully creating sexually explicit photographs of herself.

From The Associated Press

WWII, Saddam legacies litter old air base

Built by the United Kingdom in the 1930s, compound has had many lives

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HABBANIYAH, Iraq — Second Infantry Division soldiers living at this sprawling base west of Baghdad could be excused for imagining they are fighting one of yesterday's wars.

The base is made up of hundreds of slant-roofed, brick hangars, barracks and houses built by the United Kingdom in the 1930s, when it was the British Empire's most important military base in Iraq.

The U.S. soldiers now here, from the 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Strike Force), eat in a building that was once an air force mechanics' workshop. The building has its original circa-1930 metal sliding doors, ceiling and light fixtures, giving it a distinctly World War II flavor.

It seems appropriate, since Habbaniyah was the site of one of the most important — but little known — battles of World War II. In May 1941, the Iraqi army and air force, which had allied with Germany, besieged the base in an effort to cut off Iraq's supply of oil to the Allies.

According to habbaniyah.org, the British were outnumbered and outgunned, but destroyed the Iraqi air force, mostly on the ground, then bombed the surrounding Iraqi guns and tanks until they were no longer a threat.

The RAF maintained a presence at Habbaniyah until 1959, when it was forced to leave after the Iraqi revolution of 1958. Today, several WWII-era British guns still stand at the base.

There are plenty of reminders of the former British presence at Camp Habbaniyah, known as Junction City by 1st Infantry Division soldiers who lived there earlier in this year. The most obvious legacies are the thousands of trees and plants that make the base an oasis of green surrounded by an inhospitable and seemingly limitless expanse of desert.

A walk around the camp reveals that much of the British infrastructure was used by the Iraqis until they were driven out by last year's invasion by the coalition.

Everywhere you look, there are antique vehicles and machinery. The old telephone exchange, now a jumble of tangled wires, is where local fishermen store a pair of wooden canoes. And rusted red buckets hang among the cobwebs in the old fire station.

The two movie theaters, one indoor and one outdoor, were once able to cater to hundreds of patrons. The seats from the indoor theater have been kicked over and broken and tall trees have grown up in front of the outdoor projection booth, where a pair of projectors still stand. The walls of the indoor theater are decorated with murals depicting the prowess of the Iraqi military and the



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

Camp Habbaniyah, Iraq, is a former WWII British air base that has had many uses, including as a party palace by Saddam and his sons. The site is an oasis of green surrounded by a vast, inhospitable desert.



Trainee doctor Ali Gabar, who serves food in the mess hall, stands in front of a house formerly used by Saddam Hussein. Gabar said he used to clean the house before the 2003 U.S. invasion.

death of the ruler of Iraq, his head tattooed with a Star of David as he sinks into a hole in the ground.

Nearby, the Anglican Church has been converted into a mosque



Iraqi army helmets, gas masks and uniforms litter the grounds of Camp Habbaniyah.

and the British servicemembers' cemetery, which includes numerous WWII graves, has been vandalized to obliterate Christian symbols.

There are literally hundreds, if not thousands of buildings at Camp Habbaniyah and most of them are vacant.

Inside one, paperwork lies scat-

tered on the floor — photographs of Iraqi air force officers and notebooks filled with Arabic script. In other rooms, retreating Iraqi airmen and soldiers had hastily stripped off their uniforms: shirts, pants, gas masks, and helmets litter the floor.

Other buildings are packed with thousands of gray wooden

crates containing unused aircraft parts including wheels, glass canopies, jet engines, flight suits, radios and various other items. There are larger wooden crates, some the size of rail cars, containing jet engines. One has a pair of wings inside it.

There are eight large hangars along the airstrip, each the size of a football field. The Army is using them to store M1A1 Abrams tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles and Humvees. The old control tower, still standing midway up the runway, is now a company headquarters.

Several Iraqis who worked at the base before the Americans took over are now employed by the U.S. Army. Ali Gabar, who serves food in the mess hall and is in training to become a doctor, said he used to clean Saddam Hussein's house at Camp Habbaniyah before the war.

Gabar remembers when water trucks would drive around the base irrigating the plants on the side of the road, then drive around the soccer field to water the pitch, which was covered in grass. The young man used to play soccer there every day with Iraqi air force officers, he said.

"Now they have all gone away and I am the only one left," he said.

The road to Saddam's house is marked by a traffic island with a pink-blossomed bush and an attractive light stand in the middle of it. Halfway up the street stands a pair of stone lions with missing heads. The lions flank a stone path leading into a small park with fountains, a goldfish pond, grape vines and numerous unusual trees and shrubs.

Saddam's house, at the end of the street, is a two-story mansion with a large Iraqi flag painted above the front door. Inside, there are two courtyards and dozens of rooms.

Before the war, the house was filled with fine furniture, televisions and all sorts of items, but they were removed by the fleeing inhabitants as the Americans approached, Gabar said, standing in a room littered with smashed glass and broken masonry.

E-mail Seth Robson at: robsonsp@strips.com

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Photos from the Front

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ABOVE LEFT Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, visits the Baghdad Joint Coordination Center during its dedication ceremony Sept. 20. The center, the first in Diyala province, is a coordination center for all major city departments, as well as coalition forces. The center's staff include representatives from the Iraqi National Guard, Iraqi Police Force, border patrol, fire, emergency medical services and a provincial council representative. The center is manned 24-hours per day, seven days a week.

KIMBERLY SCHOEN/U.S. ARMY

ABOVE RIGHT Capt. David Krzycki, commander of the 1st Infantry Division's Company A, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, based near Schweinfurt, Germany, helps cut the ribbon during the grand opening of the Owja Water Plant on Sept. 7. With him is project coordinator Manda Hazali, while members of the Owja city council look on.

L. PHILIP SCHOENBERGER/U.S. ARMY

LEFT The sun sets on tankers from Company A of the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division before they left for Iraq. The tankers are normally part of the 72nd Armor Regiment of the 1st Brigade, but were attached to the 2nd Brigade for this deployment.

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IN THE STATES

Jeanne heads north; at least 6 dead in Fla.

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Fla. — Hurricane Jeanne tore a fresh path of destruction as it marched up storm-ravaged Florida. The fourth hurricane in six weeks shut down much of the state and prompted recovery plans on a scale never before seen in the nation.

At least six people died in the storm as it plowed across Florida's midsection in a virtual rerun for many residents still trying to regroup from hurricanes that have crisscrossed the Southeast since mid-August.

"This is the price we pay for living in paradise," said Phyllis Cole, laughing at her predicament as she waited along with about a dozen others in Stuart on a promise that a Home Depot store in Stuart would reopen. Everyone wanted the same thing: a generator.

None were in stock, but the manager thought some were on the way.

Jeanne came ashore around midnight Saturday with 120 mph wind, striking the same area hit three weeks ago by Hurricane Frances and rocketing debris scattered by earlier storms. Roofs were torn off, street lights dangled precariously and bridges were flooded from the mainland to barrier islands. About 2.6 million homes and businesses were without power.

"We have some people in Florida who have been hit two or three times now by these hurricanes. They have to be miserable right now," Federal Emergency Management Agency director Mike Brown told "The Early Show" on CBS.

Jeanne had moved east of the Panhandle and remained at barely tropical storm strength as its center moved over Georgia late Monday morning. It was expected to weaken into a tropical depression later in the day.

Frustration was obvious Monday. Nicole Jillard and Ed Holzer waited 20 minutes in their car with their 3- and 1-year-old children for two bags of ice, a case of bottled water and 12 Meals, Ready to Eat at a Kmart parking lot in Stuart.



Betty Kalusi of Sebastian, Fla., searches for mementos of her great granddaughter Monday. Her garage and porch were destroyed three weeks ago when Hurricane Frances made landfall and the rest of her home was destroyed by Hurricane Jeanne.

The drive-up service provided by the National Guard attracted a line of cars stretching at least a half-mile down U.S. 1, the coastal city's main thoroughfare.

"This is not good," Holzer said. "We don't have enough money to keep running to places like Fort Myers for food and water."

U.S. citizen deported to Saudi Arabia

By SONIA BARRETT
The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — A U.S. citizen held since late 2001 as an enemy combatant is to be sent to Saudi Arabia by Thursday under an agreement made public Monday.

Pres. George W. Bush said he would give up his U.S. citizenship and renounce terrorism under the agreement, which includes a number of other restrictions.

Hamdi, whose case led to a U.S. Supreme Court decision limiting the president's powers to indefinitely hold wartime combat-

ants, has been held without charges and will not be charged with any crime.

The four-page agreement was filed late Friday in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, along with a request by Hamdi's lawyer and the federal government to stay any court proceedings in the case until Oct. 1 so the agreement may be carried out.

Hamdi was being held in a Navy brig in Charleston, S.C. Justice Department officials said Monday they did not have immediate information on when Hamdi would be released.

Hamdi was born in Baton Rouge, La., in 1980 to Saudi parents.

The plan is for the Defense Department to fly Hamdi to Saudi Arabia, where he was raised, on a military plane, officials said.

Hamdi's lawyer, federal public defender Frank Dunham Jr., did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment Monday.

Under the agreement, Hamdi must live in Saudi Arabia for five years and not travel outside that country during that time.

Hamdi also agreed not to travel to the United States for 10 years.

fronted him with allegations he abused two boys while he was a parish priest.

Dupre cited health reasons for his departure. He retains the title of bishop.

There have been at least a dozen grand jury investigations involving how bishops dealt with abuse claims, and four other U.S. bishops have resigned after being accused of sexual misconduct.

Dupre
From The Associated Press

U.N. rushes peacekeepers to Haiti to control unrest

By PAISLEY DODDS
The Associated Press

GONAIVES, Haiti — U.N. peacekeepers rushed to this storm-ravaged city and guarded the entrance Monday against looters stealing food aid while military doctors performed operations in primitive conditions. Hundreds of weary survivors, after a miserable night spent out in the rain, lined up for food before daybreak.

Among patients treated at a makeshift clinic were 30 with gunshot wounds they said they received in fights over food, said New York City Dr. Jean-Claude Kompass.

The Brazilian general in charge of the U.N. force said Monday he needs more than twice the 3,000 peacekeepers in place in Haiti, and that they were getting little local help in the town which Tropical Storm Jeanne swamped with torrential rains that turned roads into rivers and mudslides that collapsed homes. At least 1,500 were killed and some 300,000 are homeless, 200,000 of them in Gonaives.

"If we had help from the National Police of Haiti, we could probably increase the aid distribution points," Gen. Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira said in a telephone interview on Monday.

Nevertheless, he said the number of food distribution places increased from two to four on Monday.

He said many people were suffering from diarrhea while others, many children, had infected wounds. Some had contracted gangrene and at least three amputations had been performed under primitive conditions, he said. Most injuries being treated are gashes from collapsing roofs or pieces of zinc roof hidden by the mud that still covers the city, where most survivors walk barefoot.

Anne Poulsen of the U.N. World Food Program said relief agencies were working around the clock trying to get food to victims — even using donkeys.

When trucks carrying 8 tons of food from Cap-Haitien — the port to the north — were blocked by mudslides, "we unloaded the food from trucks and put it on to donkeys and mules to reach localities ... where people had not eaten for a week," since the storm's passage, Poulsen said.

WFP and CARE International distributed 120 tons of food in the past three days — enough to feed 48,000 families for one day, she said.

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Fingerprinting visitors

WASHINGTON — Beginning Thursday, foreign visitors from 27 countries will be fingerprinted and photographed when they enter the United States, according to the Homeland Security Department.

Until now, citizens of 22 European countries — along with Australia, Brunei, Japan, New Zealand and Singapore — haven't had to undergo such screening because they can travel to the United States without a visa.

Since January, most foreign visitors who travel with a visa here had to be photographed and fingerprinted under the US-VISIT program when they arrive at 115

major airports and 14 major seaports. The information is checked against databases to verify documents.

Mass. bishop indicted

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Bishop Thomas Dupre, the former head of the Springfield Diocese, was indicted Monday on child rape charges, accused of molesting two boys in the 1970s, the county prosecutor said.

He becomes the first Roman Catholic prelate indicted in the sexual abuse scandal within the American church.

Dupre, 70, resigned Feb. 11 after nine years as head of the diocese, one day after The Republican newspaper of Springfield con-

Campaigns rev up for first presidential debate

BY DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — It's a classic pre-debate dance, maybe as important as the matchup itself: lower expectations for your candidate's performance and jab the other guy while you're at it.

While President Bush and Democrat Sen. John Kerry remained secluded half a country apart on Sunday in preparation for their prime-time showdown Thursday, representatives for each side employed their own double-barreled debate strategy.

In central Texas, where the prime-time spent about four hours at his ranch preparing for the debate, White House communications director Dan Bartlett called Kerry a seasoned debater against whom Bush would merely "hold his own." But then Bartlett accused Kerry of taking more than one position on foreign policy issues — the subject of the first debate.

In Washington, Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe called Bush a "great debater," but then added that the president wins matchups on "style not substance."

Bush practiced a couple of hours Saturday and then another two hours Sunday. Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., played Kerry.

New Bush ad attacks Kerry on Iraq

BY JENNIFER LOVEN
The Associated Press

CRAWFORD, Texas — President Bush's campaign, setting the stage for the first presidential debate later this week on foreign policy, rolled out a new television ad Monday highlighting Democratic Sen. John Kerry's statements on the Iraq war.

"How can John Kerry protect us when he doesn't even know where he stands," the ad asks.

It shows quick clips of the Democrat commenting on the war, including "the winning of the war was brilliant," and "It's the wrong war, in the wrong place, at the wrong time."

However, the quotes lack context and are partial in many cases.

The Bush campaign is trying to portray Kerry as an indecisive candidate who shouldn't be trusted to serve as commander in chief.

Both Bush and Kerry spent the weekend preparing for their first of three head-to-head pre-election debates, slated for Thursday.

Mark McKinnon, media adviser to the Bush-Cheney campaign, was the moderator.

Low-balling expectations, Bartlett said the White House was expecting 90 minutes of attacks from Kerry at the first of three presidential debates Thursday night in Coral Gables, Fla.

"Senator Kerry has been preparing his whole life for this mo-

ment," Bartlett said. "He was an all-star debater, prep school and an all-star debater in Ivy League. He was 20 years in the most august debating society in years, the United States Senate."

"Will President Bush step on his own line and maybe not pronounce a word right? I bet he will. But, I think after the 90 minutes, there won't be any ambiguity on his positions."

On Monday, the president was taking a break from debate preparations at his central Texas ranch to return to Ohio for the 26th visit of his presidency after an absence of little less than two weeks. He's due back again Saturday.

Kerry's return visit to Ohio will address the National Association of Home Builders in Columbus, then travel by bus north to Mansfield and Akron.

Ohio, along with Florida, is Kerry's biggest and best opportunity to dent Bush's advantage in the drive to amass the needed 270 electoral votes. Ohio provides 20 of those votes.

The state's unemployment rate has risen to 6.3 percent and nearly 240,000 jobs have been lost since Bush took office in January 2001.

Both sides know the stakes of the debates, four in all through Oct. 13, including one between Vice President Dick Cheney and Democratic opponent Sen. John Edwards. A recent national poll found that nearly one-third of those questioned thought the debates would help them decide who to vote.

In a conference call with reporters Sunday, Democratic chairman McAuliffe recalled Bush's 2000 debate against Democrat Al Gore.

"George Bush defied expectations and won," McAuliffe said, praising the president. "Let's face it, George Bush is a great debater."

Then the jab: "He wins them on style not substance, and he wins

them because he isn't always honest. The truth is George Bush has historically had problems being forthright at debates."

He cited examples from the 2000 debates in which Bush expressed concern about overcommitting the U.S. military around the world.

"As we know, he has over-stretched our military now to dangerous levels," McAuliffe said.

Kerry took his own swing at Bush on Sunday for pronouncing the Iraqi mission accomplished while the monthly death toll mounts.

Defending his actions, Bush said in an interview with the Fox News Channel's Bill O'Reilly to be broadcast Monday that he would not back down from declaring, on May 1, 2003, that major combat operations had ended as he stood under a "Mission Accomplished" banner on an aircraft carrier.

Kerry, arriving Sunday at a resort near Madison, Wis., to practice for the debate, replied: "I will get the mission accomplished."

The Massachusetts senator, who had a practice debate with friend Greg Craig earlier this month in Boston, was taking time Monday to attend a town hall-style meeting with Wisconsin voters.

Mary Dalrymple of The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Editor's note: Three times a week, The Associated Press picks an issue and asks the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates a question about it.

On the issues

Should girls be required to tell parents before having an abortion?

President Bush



"Parents should have the right to be involved in any major medical decision affecting their minor daughter. When young girls who are still legally minors find themselves in difficult situations regarding pregnancy, they may be easily influenced into making

harmful and even dangerous choices. We need to protect the health and safety of our young women by ensuring that they have appropriate guidance from responsible adults. I will continue to support parental notification laws so that parents are involved in the decisions of their minor daughters."

Sen. John Kerry



"Like any parent, I believe that parents should be fully involved in all decisions regarding their children. But we also have to take into account possible family dysfunction, including abuse or incest. I will not force a girl who

has been abused by a family member to ask the rapist for permission in making a difficult and heart-wrenching choice. Too many proposed laws have failed to include common sense 'bypass' provisions to protect the victims of these brutal and unspeakable crimes."

BY DAN EGGEN
AND SPENCER S. HSU

The Washington Post

Agencies across the federal government are launching an aggressive and unusually open offensive aimed at thwarting terrorist plots before and during the presidential election in November.

Numerous law enforcement and counterterrorism officials also warned last week that a heightened threat of terrorist attack will persist through the January inauguration.

The government's strategy will include heavy surveillance by the FBI, increased checks of terrorism watch lists by local police and heightened security at polling places on Nov. 2, officials said. At the U.S. Capitol, Police Chief Terrance W. Gainer has ordered a number of his officers to wear sophisticated new equipment to protect them from a biological or chemical attack.

Counterterrorism officials concede they do not have new or specific intelligence outlining plans for an attack, but they say they remain alarmed by indications that al-Qaida and other terrorist groups might seek to influence U.S. elections as they did in Spain last spring by setting off bombs on commuter trains in Madrid. By publicizing the government's disruption efforts, which will begin in earnest later this week, authorities say they hope to forestall any plans for similar attacks here.

The FBI is sharply limiting personal leave and transferring hundreds of agents to the effort, will focus heavily on individuals within the United States who are suspected of having ties to al-Qaida and other terrorist groups or who sympathize with their causes, according to officials who have been briefed on the plans.

Officials said the FBI's tactics, which will be outlined in an electronic communication to be sent to field offices this week, will include aggressive and often overt surveillance, widespread interviews and, in some cases, arrests. Local police will be urged to run the names of suspicious people through the federal government's terrorism watch list, even during traffic stops and other minor encounters.

"We are always asking ourselves the critical question, 'Have we done everything we can to thwart the next attack?'" said Michael A. Mason, who heads the FBI's Washington field office. "We ask ourselves that every day."

The warnings are reminiscent of those this summer when officials expressed extreme concern about the potential for terrorist attacks on the Republican and Democratic national conventions and at the Olympic Games in Athens. Those events passed without any known disruption.

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IN THE WORLD

Wall at Dubai airport falls, kills at least 8

BY RAWYA RAGEH

The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A wall collapsed at an airport construction site Monday, killing more than eight workers and injuring nearly more, a contractor said.

Workers at Dubai airport said they saw up to 40 casualties being

taking away, but the toll could not be immediately confirmed. The airport issued a lower casualty toll, saying in a statement that five workers were killed and 12 were injured. It did not give the extent of the injuries.

At least eight people were killed on the spot, and some died in the hospital, but we don't

know how many," said an official of Al-Naboodah Contracting Co., the main contractor at the site. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

A large partition in a building under construction collapsed, the contractor said. About 150 workers were on the site when the partition fell at 11 a.m.

"The wall fell down, and we all

ran to help, but there wasn't anything we could do," said worker Dalinder Singh. "Rescue teams were very late in coming. It took them maybe one hour to arrive."

Other workers put the casualties at about 40, saying most were injured. They spoke on condition of anonymity. Police said there were casualties, but they did not

know how many.

The Dubai facility, which bills itself as "the world's fastest growing airport," is being upgraded and expanded in a program costing \$4.1 billion. The airport carries about 22 million passengers a year, and the expansion aims to boost capacity to 60 million passengers a year when it is completed in 2018.

Pakistan nabs more terror suspects, puts Karachi on 'red alert'

BY ZARAR KHAN

The Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan — Police stepped up patrols around foreign consulates and government offices in this volatile city Monday, fearing a backlash after Pakistani forces killed a suspected top al-Qaida operative wanted for his alleged role in the 2002 kidnapping and beheading of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

Amjad Hussain Farooqi, also accused in two attempts on the life of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf in December 2003, died in a four-hour shootout Sunday at a house in the southern town of Nawabshah. Two or three other men, one of them an Islamic cleric, were arrested. Like Farooqi, they are all Pakistanis.

"We eliminated one of the very major sources of terrorist attacks. He was not only involved on attacks on me but also on attacks elsewhere in the country. So a very big terrorist had been eliminated," Musharraf said in the Netherlands while en route home from addressing the United Nations General Assembly. "There have been some other arrests, and we will get a lot of useful in-

formation leading to further arrests and eliminations, I am very sure," he said.

On Monday, the investigation expanded to include the arrest of three other suspected Islamic militants, all brothers, in Sukkur, a town not far from Nawabshah. One was identified as Khalid Anwar, alleged to have ties to the Sunni Muslim group Jaish-e-Mohammed.

A fourth Pakistani man was arrested in Mirpurkhas, a town in the region, said Syed Kamal Shah, the provincial police chief.

Fayyaz Leghari, deputy chief of police in Karachi, said the city was on "red alert."

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad issued a renewed travel warning, urging U.S. citizens in Pakistan not to venture out of major urban centers, saying embassy staff may not be able to help those that do.

In Washington, a U.S. official who described Farooqi as a key al-Qaida figure said the government could not yet confirm he had been killed but that it appeared to be the case. Pakistani officials said they were awaiting the results of DNA tests but had little doubt the body was that of Farooqi.

Israel threatens Syria, saying it aids terrorists

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A senior Israeli defense official harshly threatened Syria on Monday, accusing President Bashar Assad of direct involvement in terrorism, but stopping short of confirming that Israel was responsible for killing a Hamas leader in Damascus.

Deputy Defense Minister Ze'ev Boim said the issue was not who killed Izz Eldine Subhi Sheikh Khalil in a car bomb in Damascus on Sunday, but rather Syria's deep involvement in terrorism.

"Syria is responsible for directing terrorism against us, and therefore it is not immune from our operations to prevent terrorism," Boim told Israel Radio.

"This is a central thing that

needs to be said ... anyone who hurts Israel, anyone who takes part in terrorism that leads to murder and death ... of Israelis, he'll pay for it, and it doesn't matter if he operates in Israel or abroad," he added.

Boim described Syria as a "central intersection" of terrorism and Assad as the "traffic officer" directing the operations and harboring the groups.

Although Boim and other officials refused to confirm Israel's involvement in Sunday's car bombing, Israeli security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged Israel had a hand in the attack.

Israel stepped up security at its diplomatic missions as Hamas vowed revenge.

Keeping up on imaging



Models practice introducing new Pentax digital cameras for Photokina, an imaging trade show that opens Tuesday and runs through Sunday at the Cologne fairs grounds. New developments this year are cell phones with photo quality built-in digital cameras, and pocket digicams with anti-shake systems. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. During the week, admission is 18 euros and, on the weekend, 12 euros.

MICHAEL ABIRAMS
Stars and Stripes

Leaders call to expand U.N. Security Council

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — One after another, world leaders and ministers called for expanding the powerful 15-nation Security Council, saying the modern world shouldn't be dominated by a few wealthy countries chosen in the aftermath of World War II.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez said the founders of the United Nations could not have envisioned the terrorist attacks and other problems facing the international community. "Diplomats of this generation now have the obligation to envision a second phase, a new chapter on collective action so as to eradicate," modern threats he said.

Efforts to reform the United Nations and its main body have been under way for years and the debate isn't likely to end soon because of national rivalries and differences over key details, including veto power. But the issue came to the forefront of the 59th annual General Assembly session last week when Brazil, Germany, India and Japan joined forces

to press for permanent seats and said Africa should get one as well.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said Muslims and Arabs have the right "to be represented in the Council on an equal basis with the representatives of other cultures and civilizations."

Only the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China currently have permanent Security Council seats and wield veto power, giving them effective say over the body's agenda.

The 10 other council members are chosen for two-year terms by regional groups.

The General Assembly, which is composed of representatives of the 191 member states, would have to decide whether to expand the Security Council.

Britain agreed Thursday the Security Council should be nearly doubled in size to 24 nations as its challenges have evolved to facing "terrorist organizations, failed states and from man-made shocks to our environment like climate change."

The Bush administration also has supported Security Council expansion.

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Deadly bus crash

ATHENS, Greece — A bus taking Greek high school students to watch the Paralympics smashed into a truck loaded with glass Monday, killing seven teenage passengers and injuring 30 other people, police said.

The crash prompted Paralympic organizers to cut back Tuesday's closing ceremony of the games, cancelling festive portions. Greek President Costis Stephanopoulos expressed his "deepest regret over this appalling accident."

The bus was carrying 37 students, four teachers and a driver, one of three buses loaded with students that left at dawn to watch the Paralympics, said Petros Hahopoulos, the principal of Parkadonia high school.

Minister nomination

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Hungary's President Ferenc Mádly on Monday nominated the country's sports minister, Ferenc Gyurcsány, to form a new government.

The president nominated Gyurcsány in parliament a month after Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy was forced out by the governing coalition's loss of confidence in his leadership.

The governing Socialist Party had selected Gyurcsány, one of the country's wealthiest businessmen, as its candidate to succeed Medgyessy after the Aug. 26 resignation.

Approval of Gyurcsány appears certain, as the Alliance of Free Democrats, the Socialists' coalition partners, have said they also will support him.

Air traffic protest

OSLO, Norway — Air traffic over southern Norway was halted Monday after dozens of air traffic controllers called in sick to protest plans to scale back the number of control centers and jobs in the country.

The controllers stopped working Monday morning after Avinor, the state-owned company in charge of air traffic control in the Scandinavian country of 4.6 million, decided to scale back the number of its control centers from four to two. Avinor also operates 46 airports in Norway.

Officials with the country's biggest airports, including Gardermoen International in the capital, Oslo, as well as airports in Torp, Sandefjord and Kjevik, said some flights were still landing, but none were taking off.

Flights in northern Norway were not affected, but officials warned of possible delays.

Curbing chocolate

LONDON — If you want to lose weight — eat less — chocolate.

Britain's drive to reduce obesity now includes cutting larger chocolate bars down to size, the food and drink industry said Monday.

Reducing portion sizes is one of seven pledges set out in the first "Manifesto for Food and Health" published by Britain's Food and Drink Federation, which includes industry heavyweights Coca-Cola, Kellogg's, Kraft Foods, Nestle, Pepsi and Unilever.

It has been under pressure

from the government to promote healthy eating, and in particular to stop the aggressive marketing of sugary and fatty foods to children.

Gay marriage 'a virus'

MADRID, Spain — Allowing gays to marry is like unleashing "a virus" in society, a senior Roman Catholic Church official said on Monday as Spain's Socialist government prepares to pass the measure — one of the boldest moves in its agenda for social reform.

Juan Antonio Martinez Cami-

nó, spokesman for the Spanish Bishops Conference, said the church had nothing against homosexuals but feels a union of two people of the same sex is not a marriage.

The Cabinet is expected Friday to pass a bill that would allow gay marriage. Doing so would create "a counterfeit currency in the body of society," Martinez Cami-

no said in an interview on Spanish National Television.

Such legislation, he said, is like "imposing a virus on society, something false that will have negative consequences for social life."

From The Associated Press

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Web sites for home loans

Knight Ridder Tribune

Even with recent interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve, home mortgage rates still remain relatively low.

Several Web sites provide insights about qualifying for a home loan and borrowing for a mortgage. Here are a few informative Web locales:

■ www.bankrate.com/bnm/news/real-estate/tips-new-home1.asp. Offers a variety of mortgage cost-saving tips.

■ www.free-mortgage.com

■ www.getting-best-rate.com. Features mortgage basics, with links to other mortgage subjects.

■ www.home-mortgage-calculator.net/how-much-should-i-borrow.asp. Provides insights on how much to borrow for a mortgage.

■ www.mortgageinfo-center.com/tips/default.asp. Offers dozens of mortgage borrowing tips over five pages.

■ realtime.com/rtpages/adviceforborrowers.htm. Covers a range of mortgage borrowing topics.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.258
British pound	\$1.86
Japanese yen (Sept. 29)	108.00
South Korean won (Sept. 29)	1,119.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$3.7699
British pound	\$1.8044
Canada (Dollar)	1.7954
Denmark (Krone)	5.73
Egypt (Pound)	6.2174

Euro	\$1.258
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7993
Hungary (Forint)	20.28
Iceland (Krona)	69.44
Israel (Shekel)	4.4823
Japan (Yen)	110.08
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.29461

Norway (Krone)	5.46
Philippines (Peso)	56.37
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	5.59
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6904
South Korea (Won)	1,149.30
Switzerland (Franc)	1.19
Thailand (Baht)	41.37
Turkey (Lira)	1,495,500.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	
Gold	\$409.30
Silver	\$5.50

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.75
3-month bill	1.72
30-year bond	4.89

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

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Go to www.hescobastion.com and follow the link to the competition mini-site.

You'll find all the competition rules for entry, and some useful information on the kind of photographs we'd like to see.

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Quick Trips

Alsace's jewel

Walls, wines charm visitors to Riquewihr

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

It is called the "Pearl of the Alsace," and a visit to Riquewihr makes it easy to see why.

Tucked amid the vineyards along France's Route des Vins d'Alsace (Alsatian wine route), this old walled city has medieval towers, cobblestone lanes, good food, good wine, museums and even a little sightseeing train that goes around the village and through the vineyards.

Riquewihr dates to the 11th century, and through the years, ownership of the town changed hands many times. It was besieged and pillaged in 1635 during the Thirty Years War and was under control of the Counts of Württemberg until the end of the 18th century. It was not until 1796 that it became a French town, and its churches and town hall were not rebuilt until the 19th century.

Exploring the town is quite easy. Its main street, the Rue du General de Gaulle, cuts straight through town, from the east Hotel de Ville gate to the Dolder tower gate in the west. Along the street are restaurants, shops and wineries. Most of the houses are colorful half-timbered structures, decorated with window boxes full of flowers.

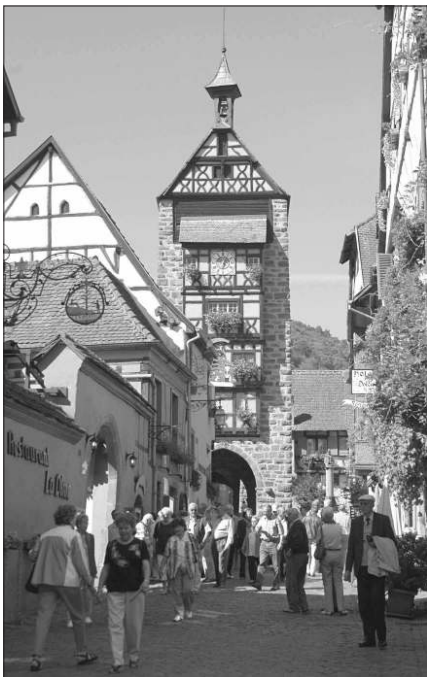
Small intimate lanes lead off General du Gaulle in a maze of cobblestones. Along them are more restaurants and wineries.

Besides Riquewihr's charms, the reason most people come here is for the wine and food. Most of the wineries either have shops on the street where you can try the wine, or the wineries themselves are open for tastings. It is a good opportunity to actually pick a wine you like before buying it.

If you like good, hearty food, Alsatian cuisine won't disappoint. Try *Baeckoffe*, a casserole of pork, lamb, beef and vegetables, or *Choucroute garni*, sauerkraut with sausage.

Another Alsatian specialty is *tarte flambée*, a pizzalike dish with a very thin crust and different toppings, but traditionally with bacon, cream and onions. Most of the restaurants have signs posted outside with what they offer, and many have menus translated into German and English.

After your meal, mosey through town, and check out the museums if you like. There is one dedicated to Hansi, the Alsatian caricaturist who enjoyed poking fun at Alsace's German neighbors; the Regional Post Museum of Alsace has mail carriages and the last telephone used by Charles de Gaulle on



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Rue du General de Gaulle, with its Dolder tower gate, is the main street of Riquewihr, France, an old walled city in the heart of the Alsatian wine-producing country.



Hanging plants add color to the half-timbered houses of Riquewihr.

display; the Dolder Museum has a collection of old weapons; and the Thieves Tower features a torture chamber.

At the town hall, the little sightseeing train leaves for a tour around the village

and through the vineyards.

But after a delicious meal and a glass of good wine, you might prefer to walk.

E-mail Michael Abrams at: abramsm@mail.esrpress.osd.mil

On the QT



Directions

Riquewihr is in the Alsace region of France, west of the Rhine River, which forms part of the border with Germany. From Germany on Autobahn 5, exit at Riegel and take the highway to

Marckolsheim, France. From there, follow signs for Ribeauville, then signs to Riquewihr. From Kaiserslautern, take A6 to A61, then A65 to Kandel. From there, take the highway toward Lauterbourg and Strasbourg.

In France, it will turn into Autoroute 35. Follow it past Strasbourg toward Selestat and Colmar. Exit at Guemar and follow signs.

Figure about a 2½-hour drive from the Kaiserlautern, Heidelberg and Stuttgart areas.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes



Times

Any time. Shops are open weekdays from about 9 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 6 or 7 p.m. The museums are open about the same time, from March through November. Restaurants serve between noon and 2 p.m. and again from 6 to 9 p.m., although some serve all day.



Costs

Parking along the town wall costs 2 euros for five hours. Parking is free on the outskirts. The sightseeing train costs 5.50 euros for adults and 4 euros for kids 6 to 14 years of age.



Food

There are plenty of restaurants in Riquewihr. Try Alsatian specialties along with Alsatian wine.

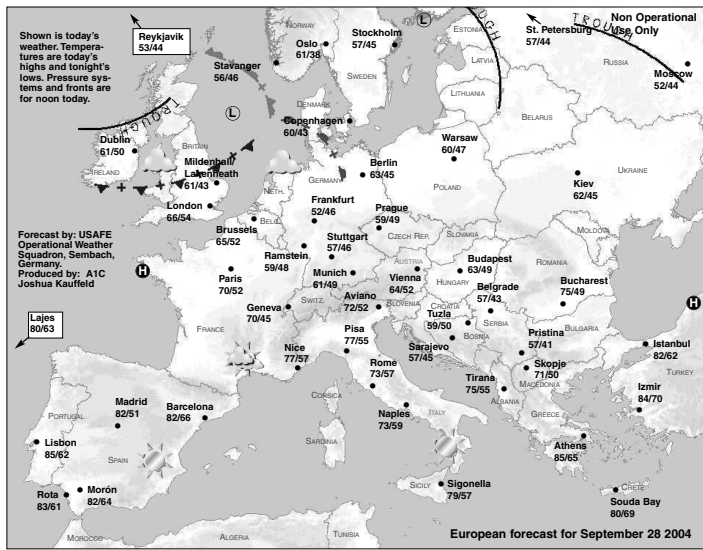


Information

The Riquewihr tourist office is about halfway up the town's main street, Rue du General de Gaulle. It is open 9 a.m. to noon and 2-5 p.m. The phone number is (+33) 03-89-47-80-80. You can pick up a free map here, and a guidebook to the town for 6 euros.

Some Web sites for the town and area are: www.ribeauville-riquewihr.com/EN/; www.visit-alsace.com/riquewihr; and www.alsace-route-des-vins.com/NewVersion/index.cfm?Language=En.cfm

— MICHAEL ABRAMS



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with gusty winds. Highs in the mid 60s, Wednesday lows in the lower 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy to cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 60s, Wednesday lows in the lower 40s to lower 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s, Wednesday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

France: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low to upper 50s, Wednesday lows in the lower to upper 40s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s to low 60s, Wednesday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy with rain early. Highs in the upper 50s, Wednesday lows in the low 40s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low to upper 70s, Wednesday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

Southern Italy: Sunny to partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s, Wednesday lows in the upper 50s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 50s, Wednesday lows in the low 40s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with rain showers late. Highs in the mid 50s to low 60s, Wednesday lows in the upper 30s to mid 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny to partly cloudy. Highs in the low to mid 80s, Wednesday lows in the low 50s to mid 60s.

Turkey: Sunny to mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low to mid 80s, Wednesday lows in the low 60s to low 70s.

AFRICA

Cape Town	70	51	Mogadishu	86	75
Dakar	89	77	Nairobi	79	53
Freetown	84	74	Rabat	82	62
Kimberly	87	70	Tripoli	81	63

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	65	51	Manila	92	75
Batman	87	73	Mexico City	70	56
Beijing	75	58	Montreal	75	41
Bombay	88	73	Riyadh	103	72
Buenos Aires	83	75	Rio de Jan.	84	68
Calcutta	83	64	Sofia	71	46
Chennai	80	78	Sydney	73	64
Chicago	55	48	Tokyo	79	68

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska, Tex.	70	50	Alaska, Tex.	70	50
Alaska, Tex.	70	50	Alaska, Tex.	70	50
Alaska, Tex.	70	50	Alaska, Tex.	70	50
Alaska, Tex.	70	50	Alaska, Tex.	70	50
Alaska, Tex.	70	50	Alaska, Tex.	70	50
Alaska, Tex.	70	50	Alaska, Tex.	70	50
Alaska, Tex.	70	50	Alaska, Tex.	70	50
Alaska, Tex.	70	50	Alaska, Tex.	70	50
Alaska, Tex.	70	50	Alaska, Tex.	70	50
Alaska, Tex.	70	50	Alaska, Tex.	70	50

MIDEAST

Baghdad	100/73	Tehran	86/59	Zahedan	86/50
Baghdad	100/73	Tehran	86/59	Zahedan	86/50
Baghdad	100/73	Tehran	86/59	Zahedan	86/50
Baghdad	100/73	Tehran	86/59	Zahedan	86/50
Baghdad	100/73	Tehran	86/59	Zahedan	86/50

INDIA

Delhi	98/75	New Delhi	98/75	Hyderabad	86/70
Delhi	98/75	New Delhi	98/75	Hyderabad	86/70
Delhi	98/75	New Delhi	98/75	Hyderabad	86/70
Delhi	98/75	New Delhi	98/75	Hyderabad	86/70
Delhi	98/75	New Delhi	98/75	Hyderabad	86/70

SOUTH ASIA

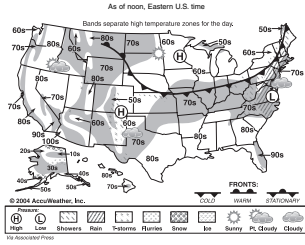
Colombo	86/73	Colombo	86/73	Colombo	86/73
Colombo	86/73	Colombo	86/73	Colombo	86/73
Colombo	86/73	Colombo	86/73	Colombo	86/73
Colombo	86/73	Colombo	86/73	Colombo	86/73
Colombo	86/73	Colombo	86/73	Colombo	86/73

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at: <http://www.ombach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

Sunrise (Baghdad)	Today 6:55AM	Tomorrow 6:56AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	Today 7:22AM	Tomorrow 7:23AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	Today 6:51PM	Tomorrow 6:50PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	Today 7:10PM	Tomorrow 7:08PM

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



PLANNING A CELEBRATION: USE A DESIGNATED DRIVER

► About 40,000 people are killed in road accidents on European roads every year.
► The total costs for road accidents are estimated at over 160 billion a year in the European Union.
► It is estimated that excessive blood alcohol concentration is involved in 1 out of 4 accidents and better drink-driving management could prevent up to 10,000 fatalities in the EU annually.



OPINION

Wall Street sees peril in empty piggy banks

Wall Street is already voting in the 2004 election, and it's giving President Bush surprisingly low marks. Despite strong corporate profits, the Dow Jones industrial average has been stuck just above 10,000 — trading in the same sluggish range it has maintained all year.

David Ignatius



Recent reports by two respected economists suggest an explanation. They argue that fiscal and monetary policies during the Bush administration have effectively raided the nation's piggy bank to finance current spending. Without

changes in policy, they suggest, we may be looking at an economy that continues to tread water — or begins to sink.

"Campaign 2004 has barely paid lip service to America's biggest economic problem," Morgan Stanley's Stephen Roach contended in a commentary last week. "The elephant in the room that the politicians continue to sidestep is the profound shortfall of national saving — the sustenance of future growth and prosperity for any economy."

Under Bush, the federal government has burned through savings at an incredible clip. Roach notes that the government's net savings rate has gone from a surplus of 2.4 percent in 2000 to a deficit of 3.1 percent at the end of July. He reckons that the largest swing from saving to dis-saving in the nation's history. "Little wonder that the politicians shy away from this issue — they are the major source of the problem," Roach notes.

Households have done as miserably as the federal government at managing money.

The personal savings rate is just 0.9 percent, says Roach, and when savings of all kinds are added together they total a net national rate of only 1.9 percent. Roach notes that an incumbent president has never stood for re-election with this key rate so low.

Bush's deficit spending — doling out tax cuts and other fiscal stimuli without the money to pay for them — is a big part of the nation's profligacy. But the Federal Reserve's monetary policy has also played a role, by keeping interest rates so low during 2002 and 2003 that homeowners were almost required to refinance their mortgages — and in many cases translate home equity into consumable cash.

John H. Makin of the American Enterprise Institute estimates in a Sept. 22 report that cash-out refinancings pumped \$100 billion annually into household disposable incomes in 2002 and 2003. That money helped consumers spend far more than they were making, according to Makin, with real consumer spending growing at 3.5 percent during the fiscal year that ended in July even though real disposable income grew at just 1.8 percent. During the three months that ended in July, consumption roared ahead at an annual rate of 4.2 percent while disposable income crept up at a rate of just 0.8 percent.

This raid-the-piggy-bank approach has allowed American consumers to play sugar daddy for the world economy. Spending down their savings, Americans have purchased the world's goods so avidly that they have pumped the current account deficit to a record 5.7 percent of GDP in this year's second quarter.

"Never before has a president stood for re-election with the United States more dependent on foreign imports of domestic growth," notes Roach. Looking at the countries, such as China and Japan, that finance this "increasingly tenuous disequilibrium,"



Roach wryly comments: "This is the real 'coalition of the willing.'"

Wall Street knows the numbers don't add up. And investors must have noticed last week when the head of the International Monetary Fund, Rodrigo Rato, lectured America about its deficits as if it were a Third World country. Still the sluggish stock market — despite corporate profit rates that have bounced back to bubble-economy levels of the late 1990s. Indeed, according to Fed valuation models cited by Makin, U.S. stocks that were trading well above "fair value" before the bubble burst in early 2000 are now well below.

Perhaps the reason for Wall Street's torpor is that investors have actually been following this wretched political campaign —

and noted the rapid debate about economics. Bush and Kerry are claiming they'll cut the budget deficit in half over the next four years, but neither is offering convincing details. "In fact," writes Roach, "there is good reason to worry that campaign promises of both parties could compound the problem rather than fix it." He notes that Bush's pledge to make his unfunded tax cuts permanent is "especially worrisome."

The presidential debate season is upon us. Maybe someone can force these candidates to stop sweet-talking the public about economics and explain how they plan to put some money back in the national piggy bank.

David Ignatius is a Washington Post columnist.

Fox hunting banned as Britain's blues, reds battle

WINCHESTER, England — most un-British spectacle broke out in the House of Commons on Sept. 15. As a people, Britons are better known for resolving political disputes with barbs of finely honed wit than with fistfights and bloody noses.

Helle Dale



The issue at hand, however, was such that passions could not be contained. And what was this matter of life and death? Not the war in Iraq, which is stretching the British military thin, not the National Health Service, not the future of Britain in the European Union. No, it was — believe it or not — fox hunting.

Outside the Houses of Parliament, where the Labour Party bill to ban fox hunting was up for a vote, a motley crowd of thousands had gathered, ranging from plain country folk to tweedy ladies and more-glamorous, upper-crust types. According to news reports, the scuffle with police soon turned nasty. Several young men broke into the parliamentary chamber and started fighting with officials until security staff tackled them and wrested them to the ground.

In the end, the ban was voted into law. The ban on fox hunting is now set to take effect in July 2006. A compromise solution has been proposed in the House of Lords for licensed fox hunting, but its future is far from certain.

At this point, it is tempting to feel that only a great satirical poet (such as Alexander

Pope, he of "The Rape of the Lock,") could do justice to these events. But there is more to the fox hunting issue than satire would allow. What has recently become clear in public statements is that Labour activists regard this as payback to conservative Britain for everything from the crushing of the miners' strike under Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the early 1980s to preserving traditional British values.

Prime Minister Tony Blair is said to have exclaimed to the House of Commons when he first proposed the fox hunting ban, "Oh for goodness' sake. I thought you were someone who concentrated on things that matter." But he soon found it very useful. For Blair, fox hunting became a bone tossed to the angry left wing of the Labour Party, which has been widely disli-

sioned with the war in Iraq and business-friendly economic policies.

In the words of Labour Member of Parliament Dennis Skinner: "There is not a subject under the sun that is better suited to the Labour Party, for raising its morale in constituencies, than the ban on fox hunting."

The rural world they have in their sights is not multicultural or politically correct, and its bastions are to be found in small-town Britain and the countryside, dotted with pubs named things like "The Fox and Hound." It is very old, solid, decent, and has a lot in common with Middle America, the red states for election purposes. Urban Labour types, city dwellers in multicultural environments, have little understanding or sympathy with it whatsoever. In this they re-

semble East Coast, big-city America.

Clearly, this is all about politics. Britain's foxes don't stand much to benefit from the ban, which is sure to be broken anyway. According to a Blair government-sponsored study of the fox population conducted in 2000, British foxes would need to be destroyed if they were not hunted to protect livestock and prevent overbreeding. Would they really prefer to be gassed, shot or trapped? Given such options, taking their chances against the dogs, which often fail to catch their prey, might sound quite good.

Helle Dale is director of Foreign Policy and Defense Studies at The Heritage Foundation and deputy director of the Washington-based think tank's Davis Institute for International Policy Studies. This column first appeared in The Washington Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2004

	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley	Movie "Abandoned and Deceived" (1995, Drama) Lot Loughlin, Brian Kervin.	Dr. Phil	Broscience "Crushed"	Nightline	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Meals	Broscience "Crushed"
9:30	Sagwa-Siamess Cat			All That	Nightly Business Report		Sweet Dreams	All That
10:00	Arthur (E)		Oprah Winfrey	Jopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Best for Less	Jopardy!
10:30	Between the Lions (E)	Movie *** "Jack the Bear" (1991, Drama) Danny DeVito. Adults become male monsters to two young boys.		Guiding Light	Wheel of Fortune		Stripped	Headline News
11:00	Sagwa-Siamess Cat			Advisory Block	CNN Daybreak		E News	ESPN News
11:30	Stanley "Yipso Hops"		General Hospital	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md. (Live)	The O'Reilly Factor	NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series - MBNA America. From Dover International Speedway in Dover, Del. (Taped)	That '70s Show	Pacific Report
12:00	Dora the Explorer "Surprise"		Headline News		Good Morning America		Girlfriends	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md. (Live)
12:30	The Wiggles "Food"	Coming Attractions	Judge Judy	Today Will Smith; Justin Timberlake. Greg Kinnear; Liz Torres; John Lithgow.			Charmed "Click Rick"	
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie "The Road From Corran" (2002, Judge Judy Steven). Based on Bill Ker Conway's memoir of her life in Australia.					Amy McBeal "The Playing Field"	
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)		Movie *** "The Saint" (1997)	Zoozomato "Dinosaur"	Headline News		Any Day Now "I Wish You Could Understand"	ESPN News
14:00	Blue's Clues	Full House	Val Kilmer, Elisabeth Shue. A master of disguise in romance and danger in England.	Animaparc	Pacific Report	ESPN News	ER "Match Made in Heaven"	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		All That	Broscience "Crushed"	The Tonight Show			The Tonight Show
15:00	Furthest Home Videos		Headline News		Headline News		Law & Order "Sunderland Dorothy"	Headline News
15:30	Full House		Headline News		Channel One		The Simpsons	Headline News
16:00	Pokémon		Headline News		The Early Show		Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Show
16:30	Yo-Gi-O! (Part 2 of 2)		Headline News				ER "Hidden Agendas"	
17:00	Hey Arnold! Rhonda's party	The Entertainers	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	Baseball Tonight		Dennis Miller
17:30	Rocket Power	Behind the Scenes	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "A Little Murder"	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Biography "Came Fisher: Princess With a Plan"	Entertainment Studios.com
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Friends "The Barber"	The Hot List
19:00	The Proud Family	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his boss's family.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Friends "The Barber"	Headline News
19:30	The Amanda Show		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Friends "The Barber"	Headline News
20:00	Everwood "The Kissing Bridge"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Friends "The Barber"	Headline News
20:30	Sister, Sister "Car Trouble"	Movie *** "My First Mister" (2001) Albert Brooks. A unique bond forms between a mobster and an older man.	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Friends "The Barber"	Headline News
21:00	Sister, Sister "Car Trouble"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Friends "The Barber"	Headline News
21:30	Sister, Sister "Car Trouble"		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Friends "The Barber"	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Friends "The Barber"	Headline News
22:30	Home Improvement		Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Friends "The Barber"	Headline News
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Rapunzel"	Movie *** "Hot Shots! Part Deux" (1993, Comedy)	Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Friends "The Barber"	Headline News
23:30			Headline News	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Washington Redskins. From FedEx Field in Landover, Md.	Friends "The Barber"	Headline News

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2004

00:00	Hey Arnold!	"Hot Shots! Part Deux"	11:30	Late Show	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	(11:30) Today
00:30	Rocket Power	Movie *** "The Cowboy" (1972, Western) John Wayne, Bruce Dern, Robert Duvall. Eleven cowboys take part in a 40-mile cattle drive.	Access Hollywood	Access Hollywood	NBC Nightly News	NFL Live	Ed "Hidden Agendas"	Sesame Street (E)
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants		MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Sesame Street (E)	ABC World News Tonight	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "A Little Murder"	Blue's Clues Pool party.
1:30	Rugrats			Rugrats	CBS Evening News	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Biography "Came Fisher: Princess With a Plan"	Wheel of Fortune
2:00	The Proud Family			Blue's Clues Pool party.	Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Typical Mary Ellen	
2:30	The Amanda Show			Rugrats	Hannity & Colmes		Biography "Came Fisher: Princess With a Plan"	Dr. Phil
3:00	Everwood "The Kissing Bridge"			Dr. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim Leavelle	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Friends "The Barber"	Oprah Winfrey
3:30	Sister, Sister "Car Trouble"	Movie *** "Meet the Parents" (2000) Robert De Niro. A man spends a disastrous week with his boss's family.	Headline News	Oprah Winfrey	NBC Nightly News	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Breathingspace Yoga	NBC Nightly News
4:00	Sister, Sister "Car Trouble"		Headline News	Judge Judy	Law Dobbs Tonight	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Body Shaping	Judge Judy
4:30	Sister, Sister "Car Trouble"		Headline News	Judge Judy	Caribbean Workout	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Body Shaping	Access Hollywood
5:00	Sesame Street (E)	Movie *** "My First Mister" (2001) Albert Brooks. A unique bond forms between a mobster and an older man.	Headline News	Larry King Live	Champ Car World Series Racing Las Vegas. From Las Vegas Motor Speedway in Las Vegas. (Taped)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Typical Mary Ellen	Guiding Light
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	General Hospital
6:00	Blue's Clues		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Sybil
6:30	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
7:00	Bob the Builder		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Power Mechanics for Kids
7:30	Bob the Builder		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
8:00	The Wiggles "Play"	Behind the Scenes	Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
9:00	Stanley "Lilo's Dog Lost"	Movie *** "Heartbeat" (1992) John Ritter, Polly Draper. A pregnant TV news producer is abandoned by her husband.	Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
9:30	Sagwa-Siamess Cat		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
10:00	Arthur (E)		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
10:30	Between the Lions (E)		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
11:00	Sagwa-Siamess Cat		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
11:30	Stanley "Yipso Hops"		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
12:30	The Wiggles	Coming Attractions	Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Outrage" (1998) Rob Lowe. A young couple counts a destructive teen.	Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
14:00	Blue's Clues		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
15:00	Furthest Home Videos		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
15:30	Full House		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
16:00	Pokémon		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
16:30	Yo-Gi-O! (Part 1 of 3)		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
17:00	Hey Arnold!		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
17:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
18:30	Rugrats		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
19:00	Even Stevens		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
19:30	Kenan & Kel "Oh Brother"		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
20:00	Glimore Girls "The Descent"		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
20:30	Degrassi: Next		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
21:00	Degrassi: Next		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
21:30	Degrassi: Next		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
22:00	The Cosby Show "Mr. Ques"		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
22:30	Home Improvement		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Operation Smile"		Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood
23:30			Headline News	Larry King Live	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	WNBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The View	Strange Days-Blake Hollywood

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Sheen stumps for congresswoman

Actor Martin Sheen did some real-life politicking for a congressional candidate who used to work on his television series "The West Wing."

Sheen, who portrays fictional president Josiah Bartlett on the TV series, attended North Carolina private fund-raisers Saturday in Charlotte and Richmond County for 8th District congressional candidate Beth Troutman.

Troutman, a Democrat who worked for four years as assistant to the executive producer of "The West Wing," is trying to unseat Republican Rep. Robin Hayes.

Sheen made an appearance in Kannapolis, where thousands of jobs were lost last year when a textile plant shut down. He spoke with laid-off workers for 30 minutes.

"I'm supporting Beth's campaign for Congress," he said, standing across the street from the plant. "This is a clear indication of what is happening all over this country."

Sheen finished the day at a party at the Raleigh home of former Ambassador Jeanette Hyde.

Dylan recalls search for solitude

Bob Dylan, who is working on the second volume of his autobiography, says he went through a personal crisis in the late 1960s when his huge fame made it difficult to escape ravenous fans.

In an interview with The Sunday Telegraph, Dylan recalled moving to rural New York state in search of solitude, only to be followed en masse by his fans.

"It all turned into a nightmare," he said.

Dylan said his fear that a crazed fan could attack him or his family led him to keep several guns in his house and stifled his creative process.

"In the early years everything had been like a magic carpet ride for me, and then all at once it was over," Dylan told the paper. "Here was this thing I'd wanted to do all my life, but suddenly I didn't feel I could do it anymore."

Asked whether he came close to a nervous breakdown, Dylan replied: "I guess I did."

Dylan spoke to the paper from his home in Minnesota, where he's working on the second volume of his autobiography. The first volume, "Chronicles: Volume One," goes on sale in Britain Oct. 12.

Drummer tumbles off stage

Shock rocker Marilyn Manson's drummer broke his wrist and suffered a slight concussion in a fall from the stage at an event in Germany, organizers said.

Drummer Ginger Fish was taken to a hospital in Cologne for treatment after the incident Friday night and was released Saturday, Viva television channel said in a statement.

Fish, whose real name is Kenny Wilson, fell off the stage as the band performed a cover version of Depeche Mode's "Personal Jesus" at an award ceremony at the city's Koelnarena. Viva did not say what prompted the fall.

Pop music in shadow of Great Wall

Alicia Keys, Nellie McKay and Cyndi Lauper brought pop music to an ancient setting, performing for thousands of Chinese fans at the foot of the Great Wall.

Also on the bill of Saturday's concert was Boyz II Men and vocalist Sylvia Tosun.

Keys wore a leather jacket and a hat pulled low over her face as she performed eight songs on a stage beside one of the wall's immense gatehouses north of Beijing.

"Thank you for inviting me at the Great Wall," she said as fans cheered.

Organizers described the concert as the first by foreign musicians at the wall, although British disc jockey Paul Oakenfold performed there last year and later released an album of the show.

Some of the proceeds from Saturday's concert were to go to a Chinese children's charity, promoters said.

Despite the chilly autumn evening, Lauper performed part of her set barefoot. She descended from the stage and into the audience at one point, causing a brief flurry as Chinese police ordered her away.

Tosun was joined by a children's choir as she sang a traditional Chinese song, "Jasmine."

From The Associated Press



Rhythm and blues singer Jill Scott grew up in north Philadelphia. She is a proudly full-bodied woman, confident and strong with a voice to match. In the five years since she disappeared from public view, Scott got married, bought a house, painted it, started an educational foundation called Blues Babes and spent a lot of time listening to Maze's Frankie Beverly and the late Minnie Riperton. Scott just released her new album, "Beautifully Human: Words and Sounds Vol. 2."

Neo-soul singer Scott's still 'Golden' voice

By TERESA WILTZ

The Washington Post

It's been four years since Jill Scott's first album, "Who Is Jill Scott? Words and Sounds Vol. 1" — a reasonable question for those outside Philadelphia who'd never heard of Jilly from Philly.

She was, they discovered, a singer-songwriter who didn't need the marketing magic of MTV or a major label to win an audience. Her songs were all she needed. And then, after a seemingly endless run of singles spinning out from her Grammy-nominated debut CD, she all but disappeared.

Now Scott is back with a resolute optimism, happily married and apparently eager to spread the joy in "Beautifully Human: Words and Sounds Vol. 2," an album that traffics in the prosaic power of everyday life: the sweet humor of a dysfunctional "Family Reunion," reveling in being able to get your "hair tight and ... nails right"; realizing that in affairs of the heart, what goes around comes around, and yes, women can do the backstabbing, too.

"Golden," the disc's first single, is an irresistibly happy affair, opening with expansive synthesizer that evokes a '70s vibe.

Instrumentally it's rather simple, bass and drums keeping steady pace with Scott's swooping vocals. Still, while the mood occasionally is evocative of times gone by, it avoids the derivative rut that so many neo-soul singers get stuck in. This song stays rooted in the present, an ecumenical gospel for those who like their spirituality served up with a rum-shaking groove: "I'll be high-steppin' y'all! Letting the joy unfold ... I'm strummin' my own freedom, playing the G in me ... Hope I's proud of me / I'm living my life like it's Golden."

"Golden" is quintessential Scott: defiantly affirming the positive. It is this sense of joie de vivre, coupled with her powerful voice, that created so many fans with her first album and carried her through her second, live album, "Experiencing: Jill Scott + 826," and earned her a fervent following of fans in sold-out concerts nationwide.

Indeed, Scott is the poster girl for mental health, a champion for brushing yourself off, dumping the losers and snuggling up in the arms of a strong, sexy and, of course, emotionally available man.

She's always married words to music. In "Cross My Mind," she indulges her poet's side, opening with spoken lyrics as she lets a former lover know that yes, she's thought of him once ... or twice. Sung choruses burst between the spoken stanzas, until her speech morphs into scats, the wistful reverie leading her off into musical tangents, much the way the mind whirls around and around on itself, tripping on the past. It's as if she can't help herself, the music is bubbling inside her, threatening to explode. Then she stops herself, returning to the surety of spoken word: "But the reality is! You were never good for me and I was never good for you! I just remember what we used to do."

Scott is a proudly full-bodied woman, confident and strong with a voice to match. It's a voice that's in fine form throughout "Beautifully Human," at once sweetly earthy and childlike in the dreamily yearning "The Fact Is (I Need You)" and then brassy earthy in the bluesy "Bedda at Home," where she lets a brother on the street know that while he's "intoxicating and so divine," she's looking but not touching because she's got a man who is, well, bedda.

In the two years that she disappeared from public view, Scott got married, bought a house, painted it, started an educational foundation called Blues Babes, and spent a lot of time listening to Maze's Frankie Beverly and the late Minnie Riperton. Their influences can be felt in the sweetness of her sounds, in her conscience-driven lyrics.

She's chosen to work with the same producers from her first CD: James Poyser, Andre Harris, Vidal Davis, Mamie's Boys — while adding wunderkind Raphael Saadiq to the mix. Smart choice. Who knows — if she'd worked with the producing flavas of the minute, no doubt she'd end up, as her contemporary Arista Stone did, trying to increase her cool quotient in a duet with the likes of Snoo Dogg.

Instead, she sticks with what works for her: carefully constructed songs that don't have to the standard. When she experiments, she's more likely to play with musical genres than done gone by, like the big-band seasoning in "Talk to Me."

Still, there are some missteps, namely "Rasool," a pedantic, heavy-handed warning against youth-on-youth violence, and she does go a bit overboard with the self-affirmations of her goddess within.

Drunk riders allowed

PA PITTSBURGH — The state Supreme Court ruled that Pennsylvania's drunken driving law can't be enforced against people on horseback, a decision that inspired the dissenting justice to wax poetic.

The court ruled in a case against two men in Meadville County in 2002. Riders Keith Travis, 41, and Richard Noel, 49, were charged with drunken driving along with a man driving a pickup who allegedly rear-ended the horse Travis was riding away from a bar on a dark country road.

All three men failed field sobriety tests, police said, but a judge threw out the charges against Noel and Travis after they argued that the word "vehicles" in the state's drunken-driving law doesn't apply to horses.

Justice Michael Eakin, who is fond of writing rhyming opinions, summed up the lone dissent with two stanzas mimicking the theme song of "Mister Ed" — a 1960s TV sitcom about a talking horse: "A horse is a horse, of course, of course, but the Vehicle Code does not divorce its application from, perforce, a steed as my colleagues said."

"It's not what we, I'll say until I'm hoarse, and whether a car, a truck or horse this law applies with equal force, and I'd reverse instead."

Billy the Kid investigation

NM FORT SUMNER — Three New Mexico officials looking for answers about the death of Western legend Billy the Kid have dropped their request to exhumate what are believed to be the outlaw's remains.

Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan, joined by deputy and Captain Mayor Steve Serwall and De Baca County Sheriff Gary Graves, launched an investigation last year into the outlaw's escape in early 1881 and Sheriff Pat Garrett's slaying of the Kid later that year.

The investigation aims to clear up persistent questions about the fate of William Bonney, known in Western lore as Billy the Kid.

Competing histories suppose Garrett killed the wrong man and lied about it — and that the outlaw isn't buried in a cemetery here.

One story has the Kid slipping away and winding up in Texas, where he was known as "Brushy Bill" Roberts and died of a heart attack at age 90.

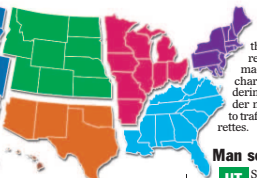
Newspaper ban eased

MI FLINT — Mayor Don Williams said he will allow newspapers in City Hall — a slight loosening of his ban on city employees reading anything at work that's not related to their jobs.

The announcement came after police temporarily detained a newspaper carrier for trying to deliver subscriptions to City Hall.

Williams issued an executive order in July that prohibits city workers from reading or having non-work-related reading material on city property during their work hours.

The mayor's office said the city will allow "delivery of newspapers by authorized persons" for use during breaks and lunch.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

No 'Choose Life' plates

TN NASHVILLE — A federal judge ruled that the state's "Choose Life" license plate is unconstitutional based on the reasoning in similar cases in other states, but he declined to rule on whether Tennessee's entire specialty plate program is flawed.

U.S. District Judge Todd Campbell wrote that the state cannot promote just one viewpoint in the abortion debate.

"The result in this case would be the same if the statute authorized a 'Pro-Choice' license plate instead of the 'Choose Life' license plate," Campbell wrote.

The American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood challenged the plate in November, arguing that the state was not providing an equal opportunity for opposing viewpoints.

Contraband cigarettes

WA YAKIMA — Five people have been charged with felonies following an 18-month investigation into sales of untaxed cigarettes and raids on a number of Indian smoke shops.

Authorities said it apparently was the first time the Justice Department has brought criminal charges, at least in the Pacific Northwest, over contraband cigarettes intended for sale to non-Indians.



First tracks

Enjoying more than a foot of snow from a storm that recently passed through the Yampa Valley, Marco X of Steamboat Springs, Colo., makes first tracks down the Steamboat Ski Area.

In a 238-count indictment issued by a federal grand jury, the three north Idaho residents and two Tacoma-area men were charged with money laundering, conspiracy to launder money and conspiracy to traffic in contraband cigarettes.

Man sentenced

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A man convicted of shaking a baby who died after 12 years in a vegetative state was sentenced to between five years and life in prison.

Warren Clifford Hales, who shook then-5-month-old Luther Deem in 1985, had said the boy was accidentally injured after Hales slammed on his brakes to avoid another car and the baby hit the dashboard.

But prosecutors said Hales shook the boy hard enough to leave him blind, mute and unable to learn or care for himself.

The boy lingered in a persistent vegetative state for 12 years before dying in 1997.

Teen falls to his death

ME CLIFTON — A teenager fell 150 feet to his death while camping with friends near a cliff, officials said.

Josh McKay, 16, of Glenburn, lost his footing and tumbled off Park Pond Bill while trying to extinguish a small fire started by a firecracker, said Wes Linscott, of the Maine State Police in Orono.

The teenager's body was recovered.

McKay was part of a group that was camping on Parks Pond Bluff in Penobscot County when someone tossed a firecracker over a drop-off near the camp site, Linscott said.

McKay and two others were trying to put out the fire when McKay got too close to the edge and fell, he said.

Endangered bird plan

HI HONOLULU — Mongooses, cats and rats still threaten the endangered state bird, but federal wildlife officials announced a comprehensive recovery plan aimed at taking the nene off endangered and threatened species lists.

Establishing a stable Hawaiian goose population would no need for federal protection, however, would take a minimum of 30 years under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rules.

From just 30 birds in 1952, the number of nene has grown to an estimated 1,300 today, nearly all on Kauai, Hawaii, Maui and Molokai. The nene is found only in Hawaii.

Art thief gets 2 years

FL MIAMI — A man pleaded guilty to being part of a conspiracy that stole paintings by Monet and Renoir from a Naples mansion last year and was sentenced to two years in prison.

Carlos Somoano, 38, pleaded guilty in state court to grand theft for stealing the French impressionist paintings worth \$6.7 million. The sentence will run simultaneously with a 10-year federal sentence on an unrelated drug charge. He had faced up to 30 years for the theft.

Somoano didn't take part in the theft, but tried to arrange the sale of the paintings for \$1 million to two men who turned out to be undercover police officers.



Dirty landing spot
Landfill in Daytona Beach, Fla.

A bald eagle rests on piles of debris and garbage at the Volusia County



A fishy scare Maliah Baguran, 8, second from right, laughs as Tristin Lewis, 8, cringes near a coho salmon being shown at Campbell Creek in Anchorage, Alaska.



Momma Mia!

Candace Combs, from left, Pat Turpin and Teressa Hundley work on preparing a pepperoni and sausage pizza at the Casey County Apple Festival in Liberty, Ky.



Experiencing the force Radio station contest winner Jacinda Sumara, of Birmingham, Mich., takes a flight and experiences zero gravity through G-Force One, a specially modified Boeing 727-200 out of Detroit Metropolitan Airport.



A close catch Federal Reserve Bank employee Steve Lowe, right, makes a fingertip catch in front of fellow employee Marc Hare during lunch as they played a game of touch football in Kansas City, Mo.



Green giant A green elephant stands guard over the Green Animals topiary garden as greenery sculpted into giraffe can be seen in the background in Portsmouth, R.I.



A colossal view A rainbow casts an arch over the brontosaurus on top of Dinosaur Park in Rapid City, S.D., during a late afternoon shower.

Fed bust drug ring

VA HARRISONBURG — Federal and local law enforcement officials declared an end to a seven-year operation that sent 90 drug criminals to prison and kept hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine out of the region.

John Brownlee, U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia, called Operations "High Roller (1&2)" a significant victory in the fight against drugs.

Among those in prison as a result of the operation is Donald Wayne Long of Harrisonburg, who authorities said was responsible for procuring methamphetamine, a cheap, highly addictive and potent drug for users in the Shenandoah Valley.

Authorities say Thompson distributed 300 pounds of meth, 30 pounds of cocaine and several hundred pounds of marijuana.

In all, the investigation led to 40 federal and 50 state convictions.

Judge strikes bootleg ban

NY NEW YORK — A federal judge struck down a 1994 law banning the sale of bootleg recordings of live music, ruling the law unfairly grants "seemingly perpetual protection" to the original performers.

U.S. District Judge Harold Baer Jr. dismissed a federal indictment of Jean Martignon, who runs a Manhattan mail-order and Internet business that sells bootleg recordings.

Baer found the bootleg law was written by Congress in the spirit of federal copyright law, which protects writing for a fixed period of time — typically for the life of the author and 70 years after the author's death.

But the judge said the bootleg law, which was passed "primarily to cloak artists with copyright protection," could not stand because it places no time limit on the ban.

Man poses as doctor

TX HOUSTON — A man wearing hospital scrubs and a white lab coat sexually assaulted three women patients at a Houston hospital, officials said.

The man, dressed as a medical professional in lab scrubs and a carrying a stethoscope, performed pelvic examinations on three women in their rooms after asking them several questions, said Detective Keith McMurtry, of the Houston Police Department's Sex Crimes Unit.

Police said it took the patients time to realize what had happened and alert authorities.

The victims, ranging in age from the late teens to the early 30s, told police the man's demeanor was professional and calm. He wore a white doctor's coat and a piece of paper, McMurtry said.

'Sacred' buffalo dies

WI JANESVILLE — A buffalo considered sacred by some American Indians because it was born white has died of natural causes at the age of 10, its owner said.

The animal, named Miracle, drew as many as 2,000 visitors a day in the year after his birth in 1994.

Although its hide became darker as it aged, some associated Miracle with the white buffalo of American Indian prophecies.

According to lore, such an animal will reunite all the races of man and restore balance to the world.

Flip-flops take over

CA ANVILLE — Charlotte Wood Middle School is awash in flip-flops. Hundreds and hundreds of flip-flops.

Since word got out that students were collecting the California wardrobe staple for barefoot Iraqi children walking on hot sand, the campus has been hit by a tidal wave of sandals.

A trendy flip-flop maker whose footwear has appeared on "Oprah" and "Sex and the City" has pledged 1,000 pairs worth \$25,000. Another donor dropped off a box of 100. One man walked into the school and peeled off nine \$100 bills to help with shipping costs. And Wells Fargo wrote a check for \$10,000 to send all those shoes halfway around the world.

The shoes keep coming, but the school doesn't mind.

Man shoots bear

AK ANCHORAGE — Gary Boyd was walking his boxer puppy along a popular hiking trail when he heard something big crashing through the brush behind him.

"I thought it was a moose, but then I saw it was too low for a moose," said Boyd, a former Army helicopter pilot and retired maintenance chief. "I just had time to pull my pistol and spin around."

A massive male brown bear erupted from the forest less than 20 feet away, claws tearing up hard-packed earth as it charged toward the 57-year-old.

"I fired the first shot, and I aimed at its shoulders," Boyd said. "When the first shot didn't faze it, I fired the second time, and it turned into the ditch, and I shot three more times, and it went down."

Zen priest ordained

VT SHELburne — The Vermont Zen Center ordained its first priest in its first Buddhist ordination in the state.

Holly Callery, a 64-year-old Charlotte resident, was one of two priests at the center. Sensei Sudanya Graef was ordained in New York before moving to Vermont.

As a priest, Callery will no longer wear makeup or jewelry, will wear solid black or blue clothing and will keep her hair short.

During the ceremony, she had her head shaved, and she changed her name.

Inmates to pay for care

AR BENTON — Starting next year, state prison inmates are going to have to pay \$3 each time they request medical care.

The fee, approved with a 4-3 vote by the state Corrections Board, is intended to discourage frivolous medical complaints that take time and resources from inmates with legitimate health problems.

In a typical month, about 14,000 inmate sick calls are made.

Many inmates and their families said the fee will probably end up being paid by families because Arkansas does not pay its inmates for job assignments.

Stories and photos from wire services.

Horoscope

The full moon in impulsive Aries gives power to good ideas and bad ones alike. We may mistakenly feel that since we're having an idea it's automatically good and should be acted on right away. There are not a lot of reasonable influences urging us to rethink, research or exercise restraint. The result is plenty of action and reaction.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 28). You have a perfect opportunity to achieve or exercise restraint. Be honest about your true desires. Be as detailed as possible. But above all, be brave. Lucky love signs are Aries and Aquarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Don't let fear of failure keep you from finishing what you started. When approaching the end of a project or situation, remember to remain flexible. Adapt to newly emerging situations, and you'll pass through them unscathed.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

This is a very positive time for you, as you feel grounded and self-assured. An organized approach can help you make quick work of a spouse's "honey-do" list. Don't be shy about asking your money for a favor, too.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Perhaps you've been holding your tongue, waiting for the right opportunity to let the powers that be know what's on your mind. Speak up now. You're able to see both sides of the story, which helps you present a fair analysis.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

On the prowl for a new love? Or perhaps your cozy, comfy relationship needs a bit of drama? Update your wardrobe, hairstyle or makeup. Maybe even your attitude. You're loaded with self-confidence and charisma.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You're able to really view yourself objectively. Vanity, pride and ego are decep-

tive veils that are easily lifted to reveal your true, beautiful self. Remember, our actions are ultimately motivated by either love or fear.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

You may feel like you're walking on a tightrope. There's a fine line between doing good for others and stretching yourself too thin. Beware of taking on too many responsibilities. Saying no is sometimes the most loving thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Now is not the time for painful deliberations or asking yourself, "What did I do to deserve this good fortune?" Just accept happiness as your due. Success is hard to accept if you've grown accustomed to being disappointed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Never underestimate the power of laughter. You'll benefit most by doing something that makes you feel like a kid again. Blow bubbles, draw in the driveway with chalk, or swing on monkey bars at the park.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Forget about the laundry and the credit card bills for right now — the universe bestows blessings on your house. Focus on the people you love. You're the center of their world, so set a good example of peace and harmony.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Give the foundation of your home a good shake to see where the weak spots are. Does the roof need repair? Do you have adequate insurance? An ounce of prevention now can save you big headaches down the road.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Romance can spring up in the most unusual places — at the Laundromat or department of motor vehicles. Maybe even right under your nose, if you'd only open your eyes and see without prejudice. Let go of preconceived notions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

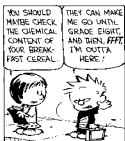
Though you excel at the art of self-delusion, pretending your problems don't exist only delays the inevitable. The reality is that no problem is insurmountable. Ask a trusted friend to keep you accountable for your actions.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillion



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



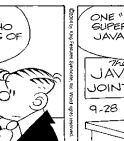
Zits



Cathy



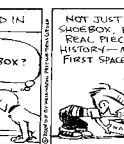
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



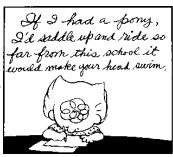
Red Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



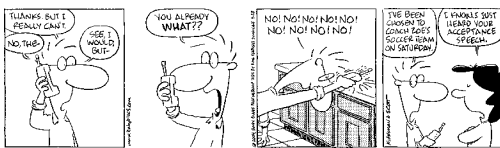
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



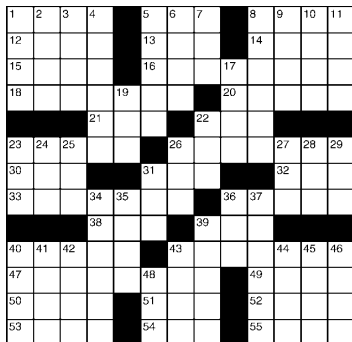
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Bridge coup
- 5 Bumped into
- 8 Long cut
- 12 Zeus' wife
- 13 Pub request
- 14 Aware of
- 15 It takes the cake
- 16 Bias
- 18 Crossword grid,
- 20 Big pain
- 21 Felon's flight
- 22 Way back when
- 23 "Cheers" cast member
- 26 Regional language
- 30 Sandra or Ruby
- 31 —es Salaam
- 32 Baby-talk syllable
- 33 Shea shape
- 36 Had a kid, biblically

Down

- 1 Not barefoot
- 2 Stubbs of the Four Tops
- 3 Vicinity
- 4 Ruin through ineptitude
- 5 Chairwoman's address
- 6 Toumey type (Abbr.)
- 7 Afternoon social
- 8 10 to the 100th power
- 9 Part of A.D.
- 10 Ollie's pal
- 11 Sacrosanct
- 17 Infatuated
- 19 Shaft of light
- 22 Melody
- 23 Put in with the rest

- 24 Mainlander's memento
- 25 Meadow
- 26 Mom's man
- 27 Early bird?
- 28 Bill's partner
- 29 Youngster
- 31 "CSI" evidence
- 34 Singer Ethel
- 35 Nebraska county
- 36 Featherly accessory
- 37 Straying
- 39 Leading
- 40 Mid-March date
- 41 Kharatoum's waterway
- 42 Story
- 43 Letter opener
- 44 Pelvic bones
- 45 "My Three —"
- 46 Ship-building wood
- 48 Snake eyes

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-28

CRYPTOQUIP

VJI YNVXCJTG GHYTLBP
PZNNHK P ZHBBOTVD
ZQTKTYC LNVYJQFPKTFJ

DPVD: "IYJK YTXJ KNQO."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE IT MIGHT BE SAID THAT A RADAR SCREEN COULD GIVE SOMEONE BLIP SERVICE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals S

Parents can't fall asleep on job

Dear Abby: I read with concern the letter from "Sleeping Beauty's Mother-in-Law," whose son and his 5-year-old daughter in her bedroom when he leaves for work so his wife can continue sleeping.

When I was a child, it was my job to lock my younger brother in his bedroom after he had eaten breakfast. I did it because my mother also wanted to continue to sleep.

Unbeknownst to me or my mother, my brother had found a cigarette lighter. He had it in his room one morning when I locked him in. To make a long story short, he started a fire in his room that resulted in his death. I have lived with the guilt of this tragedy for nearly 20 years, despite years of therapy.

The grandmother who wrote that letter has good reason to be concerned for the well-being of her grandchild.

Please remind your readers

that children are not a convenience. They require the supervision of responsible people who will care for them unselfishly.

— **Florida Family Therapist**
Dear Florida Therapist: Please accept my deepest sympathy for your little brother's death. It was not your fault.

The responsibility was your mother's. You were only a child yourself, and obeying her orders.

If it's forgiveness you are looking for, I forgive you. Read on:

Dear Abby: The letter from that grandmother gave me chills. My daughter-in-law gave birth to two children, but had only one

when she met my son. The other had been locked in his room while she slept. Somehow he got tangled in the cords on the blinds while he was playing and strangled.

When she awoke, she found her son dead.

My daughter-in-law lives

every day with the knowledge that her son died as a result of her negligence.

No child — or adult, for that matter — should be locked in a room. Without supervision, children often do things they're not allowed to do.

— **A Reader in Alaska**
Dear Reader: It goes without saying that a caregiver should be awake and capable of supervising the child.

Anything less is child abuse. Whether "Sleeping Beauty," the mother in the original letter, suffers from mental illness, depression or substance abuse, an intervention is called for. Because the parents seem oblivious to the danger, I advised the writer to notify Child Protective Services. While some readers felt this was drastic, it is better to take action and ensure the child's safety than to do nothing and regret it forever.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69404, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RABDN

JEDDA

ABAANN

RASTUX

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www.jumble.com

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's

Jumbles: KHAKI BANJO BUSILY SEXTON
Answer: What the golfer exclaimed when he kept hitting the ball in the water — IT'S A LINKS JINX

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Daughter still cold to stepmother

Dear Annie: Eight years ago, I married a wonderful lady. At the time, I was a widower with two children. Both kids were now in their late 30s. My son is fine with his new stepmother, but my daughter, "Serena," did not want me to get married and always has treated my wife with indifference.

Thank heavens we live 800 miles apart, but whenever Serena visits, she always asks me to go out for dinner or shopping, and will not include my wife. When my wife and I are at our vacation home (which is not far from Serena's house), my daughter never asks us to stop by.

Serena also has insisted that I give her all my antiques and valuables so my wife will not get them if anything happens to me.

While my wife received a Mother's Day card from Serena last May for the first time, she was ignored on her birthday, as usual. I am fed up with Serena's treatment and am ready to write

her out of my will, because that is what is most important to her. To treat my wife like this is a slap in the face to me.

— **A Troubled Father**
Dear Troubled: We know this must seem like eight years of disrespect to you, but please look again. Serena sent a Mother's Day card. This is quite a major leap, and you should be encouraged by it.

It takes some children a very long time to accept a parent's new spouse.

Instead of making demands, tell Serena how much your wife (and you) appreciate it whenever she does something kind. We are hoping that she eventually will come to understand why you love your wife so much.

Dear Annie: I had to write about your response to "Understanding Parents," whose son was living in their converted garage. You said they could charge him as

much as \$500 in rent each month. That is ridiculous.

I'm 24, and I live at my parents' house. If they made me pay that much, there would be no reason to stay here. I pay \$100 so I can save the rest. Forcing your own son or daughter to pay more than \$200 a month is absolutely absurd.

— **Need the Money Myself**
Dear Need: Parents can charge as little as they please, but the amount paid in rent should depend on the amount earned in salary. If you are paying \$100 a month, we assume your job isn't providing much. The reason your parents let you stay is because they also want you to save money, but it is an act of love on their part.

"Wondering's" son pays nothing, does no laundry, doesn't clean up. Mom cooks his food and even buys his clothes, while he spends his cash on tattoos and beer. Give us a break.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Annie's Mailbox



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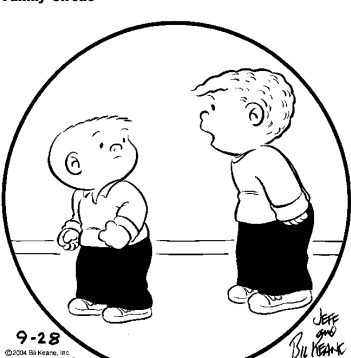
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Family Circus



"Mommy said I should keep an eye on you, so don't just stand there."

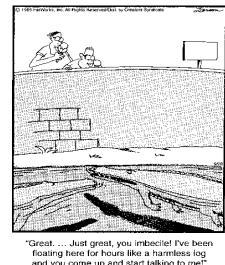
GRAFFITI



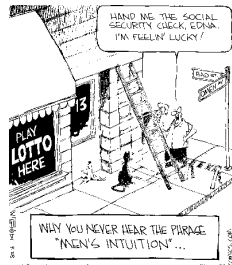
Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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Slim 'n' trim Shaq hungrier than ever

BY MITCH LAWRENCE

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Shaquille O'Neal stepped up on the scales last week and saw a number he never seen in more than a few years: 334.

By Shaq's count, he's already dropped 26 pounds since his final days as a Laker. Thanks to

a twice-a-day cardiovascular regimen, he's in his best shape in years. And he's not finished. His goal, he's told friends, is to drop another nine pounds by the time he reports for his first training camp in Miami next week.

A leamer, meaner Shaq is going to clean up this season. But it's not just because he's motivated by the way his Laker career ended. Of course he's still burning up how Jerry Buss decided to rebuild around Kobe Bryant after the Lakers flamed out in the Finals.

"Who's going to be the scapegoat now? Who are they going to point at?" he said last week, when he was back in L.A. to host a basketball camp. "They've got to have a scapegoat. And they know I'm strong enough to be that scapegoat."

There's more than just bad memories to keep Shaq going this year.

With a player option in his contract after the season, he's looking to get the kind of new deal that Buss refused to pay. That was a major consideration in moving O'Neal. As ex-Lakers exec Jerry West recently observed, "some of it was probably a financial decision."

It could cost less for Buss to rebuild around Bryant, still only 26, than to keep paying O'Neal, 32, who was getting to be paid with his constant demands for an extension. Now, Heat owner Micky Arison is the one who will hear Shaq's kvetching.

Well, Micky, here's three years for \$90 million sound? We didn't pluck those numbers out of thin air. Those are the very figures Shaq has in mind.

He'll make \$28 million this season and isn't about to take a pay cut, even if the Heat are one of the league's financial wrecks. They've been losing at least \$15 million per year for the last two seasons, according to financial gurus. And even with O'Neal's drawing power, they still stand to lose \$10 million this season.

The problem with retaining Shaq at his figure is that he's shown signs of wearing down (see his play-off performances when he plays on only one day's rest) and he could very well revert to his lazy offseason habits after this season.

At this time next year, those numbers on Shaq's scale could be going back up.



Notes

Jordan return is just hot air

So Michael Jordan steps on the practice court a few times and all of a sudden he's embarking on Comeback No. 3? It made no sense, as Jordan himself admitted when rumors had him winding up in Miami to team with Shaq.

Jordan wants to own the Heat, not play with them.

"I don't know how this started," he said.

It all started when Jordan began working out with Antoine Walker, Paul Pierce, Quentin Richardson and a few other NBA players in Chicago during the summer. While outsiders automatically assumed that Jordan was practicing with an eye toward returning, one eyewitness reported that Jordan hardly ran the floor, played almost exclusively at point guard and did a lot of passing. About the only thing he did like the Jordan of old was talk a bunch of trash.

Nets CEO Rod Thorn was one of many who never took the comeback talk seriously.

"Michael had put on some weight," Thorn said. "I figured he's working out so that he can get back into those great suits he wears."

There was even a story that Jordan had left several messages on Shaq's voice mail, asking about teaming up this season. At it turns out, he was calling merely to ask Shaq about working at his basketball camp.

"I haven't talked with Shaq," Jordan said late last week. "There's no comeback."

Thank goodness. Jordan turns 42 in February. After what we saw out of him as a Wizard, we didn't want to see him playing in Miami. Or anywhere else.

Now, perhaps Clyde Drexler and Dennis Rodman will come to their senses and drop their comeback plans. The bills must be really piling up for Rodman to be looking to resume his career.

Lots of cents to Kobe's deal

Kobe Bryant's new deal has a couple of interesting features, including a no-trade clause, which is virtually unheard of in the NBA.

He also has a 15 percent trade kicker and is going to get paid most of his annual salary before he ever steps on the floor.

According to the conditions of the seven-year, \$136 million deal with the Lakers, he was paid 70 percent of this coming season's \$14.2 million — \$9.94 million — back on Aug. 15. A good arrangement to have considering all of his legal fees, right?

In future seasons, he will get 70 percent of his forthcoming salary every Sept. 1, rather than receiving the conventional monthly checks during the season. The deal tops out at \$24.8 million in the final season, which is at his option.

Big East? Try Big Least

Once-mighty conference has fallen on hard times

FORT WORTH, Texas — No matter which way the Big East Conference turns, it bumps into criticism and bad news like a blindfolded person in a dark room looking for the light switch.

With Miami and Virginia Tech now playing football on Tobacco Road, the Big East finds itself relegated to the nonsmoking, no-respect section. Add an "L" (for losing teams and games) and, for now, it's the Big Least. The Big Easy also fits.

Wendell Barnhouse The league has the same number of teams in the Top 25 as Conference USA and the Mountain West Conference, and one less than the Western Athletic Conference.

"It's not our fault schools decided to leave," West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez said. "It wasn't like we said, 'Get out!' I think the Big East is fine. Our administrators have a great plan for the future. "The perception is that the Big East is weak, and it is a false perception."

Perhaps. But don't tell that to the five NCAA Division I-A conferences not in the Bowl Championship series, the conferences whose champions don't get automatic BCS bids.

The Big East is one of the six BCS conferences and is guaranteed that status for the next four years. But now that the Big East/Big East/Big East has lost some of its football clout, the buzzards are circling.

Saturday was not a good day for the Big East's reputation.

Syracuse was no match for Virginia, Temple — which is being evicted from the Big East after this season — lost to Toledo, and Pittsburgh had to score 21 fourth-quarter points to pull off an overtime victory against NCAA Division I-AA Furman.

Boston College lost at Wake Forest, not that the Big East cared that much. The Eagles, who were off to a 3-0 start, jumped to the ACC next year.

The main (only?) good news was that 2005 additions Louisville, Cincinnati and South Florida all won Saturday.

The only ranked Big East team is No. 6 West Virginia. The Mountaineers are 4-0 and don't face another team that is currently ranked. West Virginia's remaining games figure to be Saturday at Virginia Tech and Nov. 13 at home against Boston College.

And that's where the speculative fun begins. While an undefeated West Virginia would be a boost for the beaten-down Big East, if the Mountaineers go 11-0, it could cause yet another Bowl Championship Series controversy.

Players in both polls love teams with a zero in the loss column.

That means that as long as West Virginia keeps winning, it



West Virginia running back Kay Harris (1) stretches toward the end zone against James Madison's Rod McCarter (8) during Saturday's game in Morgantown, W.Va. The sixth-ranked Mountaineers are the only Top 25 team in the once-prod Big East Conference.

will keep moving up. One of the teams currently ranked ahead of the Neers (Oklahoma or Texas) will lose at least one game.

If West Virginia finishes No. 2 in the rankings behind an undefeated team, would one-loss teams from stronger conferences scream about injustice? And if West Virginia finishes undefeated but ranked No. 3 because the poll voters decide that a one-loss team from a stronger conference should be No. 2, would West Virginia and the Big East scream about injustice "and" prejudice? The answer to both conjugal questions is an emphatic YES!

Looking back

There were 10 games last week between teams from Bowl Championship Series conferences and non-BCS conferences. The BCS teams won seven. For the season, the BCS vs. non-BCS scoreboard reads 70-16 in favor of The Big Boys.

After gaining 514 yards rushing in his first two games to lead NCAA Division I-A in rushing, Louisiana Tech junior running back Ryan Moats has gained only 178 yards in his past two contests.

Notre Dame is 5-0 against Washington, and has won those games by the average score of 39-10.

Looking ahead

■ Upset watch: New Mexico over Utah (Friday), Oregon State over California, Notre Dame over Purdue.

■ Best games: Auburn at Tennessee, LSU at Georgia, West Virginia at Virginia Tech, Wake Forest at North Carolina State.

■ Note of interest: Purdue, which plays at Notre Dame on Saturday, hasn't won in South Bend in 30 years.

Heisman Watch

The top five candidates for the Heisman Trophy are:
1. Matt Leinart, Southern Cal

quarterback: He was cool and collected in leading the Trojans back from a 28-17 halftime deficit to beat Stanford.

2. Cedric Benson, Texas running back: Continues to show consistent production. In three games, he has rushed for 181, 188 and 189 yards.

3. Kyle Orton, Purdue quarterback: For the season, 13 touchdown passes with 10 interceptions. A productive game and victory at Notre Dame on Saturday would be a huge boost.

4. Jason White, Oklahoma quarterback: You snooze, you lose ground. White and the Sooners had the weekend off, but he's got plenty of games in which to move up.

5. Chris Leak, Florida quarterback: The sophomore didn't help his case against Kentucky on Saturday, throwing three interceptions in the Gators' 20-3 victory.

O'Brien Watch

The top five candidates for the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award:

1. Matt Leinart, Southern Cal: Completed 24 of 30 passes for 308 yards and four touchdowns. He also scored on a 1-yard run.

2. Kyle Orton, Purdue: Against Illinois, he was 35-for-50 for 366 yards and four touchdowns. For the season, he has attempted 96 passes without an interception.

3. Jason White, Oklahoma: The defending Heisman Trophy winner ranks seventh in passing efficiency, and should get a chance to put up some numbers against Texas Tech on Saturday.

4. Marques Hagans, Virginia: In his first season as full-time starter, Hagans is sixth nationally in passing efficiency for the undefeated Cavaliers.

5. Jason Campbell, Auburn: The senior has completed 60 percent of his passes, with six touchdowns and only one interception.

Wendell Barnhouse writes about college football for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Newman wins, but Gordon comes out ahead

Four-time champ takes lead in battle for Nextel Cup title

BY DICK BRINSTER
The Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Jeff Gordon has the lead in the Nextel Cup series, and after four series championships he's proven to be a great closer.

So, he's certainly a force to be reckoned with the rest of the way — a driver filled with confidence as the NASCAR circuit heads to Talladega Superspeedway.

"Obviously, we have some momentum," Gordon said after taking the series lead Sunday while Ryan Newman was winning at Dover International Speedway. "We finished seventh last week, third this week. That speaks for itself."



Ryan Newman jumps out of his car as he celebrates his win in the NASCAR MBNA America 400.

Gordon's confidence is further bolstered by victories in April at Talladega and July at Daytona. Those are the two NASCAR tracks where power-robbing restrictor-plates slow the cars.

But Gordon knows there are no guarantees, given the history of multicar crashes at both venues. "That's the nature of Talladega," he explained. "You can say you're going to try to stay out of trouble, but usually it's out of your control. You're just along for the ride."

Newman has a plan to win the title even though the mathematics make that seem very unlikely. "If we can finish in the top five in the last nine races, I can pretty much guarantee us a championship," he said. "But we can't finish 33rd, first and then 33rd."

He certainly can't, given Gordon's 107-point advantage with eight races remaining. Newman is playing catch-up because engine failure relegated him to a 33rd-place finish a week earlier in New Hampshire.

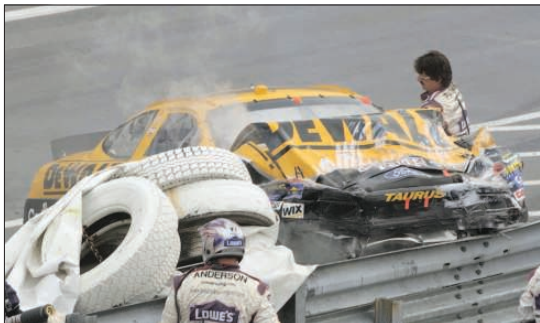
"But this is a big step in the right direction," he said of his victory in the MBNA America 400. "We'll just do the best that we possibly can, and if we don't deserve it then we won't get it."

Gordon agrees with Newman's assessment that consistency will win the title. He isn't that concerned with wins.

"What more can you ask for than top-fives every weekend," Gordon said. "That would do it."

He also believes Newman remains a threat, saying that "one bad race should not knock a team out of championship contention."

"If Ryan Newman does what he



Smoke drifts off Matt Kenseth's car after it slammed into a barrier at Dover International Speedway Sunday in Dover, Del. Kenseth was leading the NASCAR MBNA America 400 at the time of the accident.

did today anymore, he'll be right back in the thick of things," Gordon said.

Newman's optimism stems from the belief that practically every team will have one very bad race in the final 10.

"We've got to forget about today right now," he said. "If you're spending time celebrating, you're not spending time working."

Gordon finished third behind Mark Martin in the race and is one point ahead of Kurt Busch, who wound up fifth and lost the points lead when he was passed by Dale Jarrett with six laps to go.

"I thought we might have a shot at Mark," Gordon said. "But we had nothing for Newman."

Gordon said his car was good at times and far off at others. He

also believes he can run better next week.

"I just hope that doesn't mean we have a bull's-eye on us at Talladega," he said.

New Hampshire winner Busch came to The Monster Mile tied for the series lead with Dale Earnhardt Jr., who fell to third in the title chase by finishing ninth. He's 18 points behind Gordon.

Although he didn't make a large gain, Newman demonstrated the power of his Dodge by leading 325 of 400 laps. Newman, who started second, was ahead by a half-lap for much of the final quarter of the race, with the margin reduced only because a caution flag punched the field on the 327th lap.

Newman's victory in the \$5.4 million event was his third at Dover, where he swept the races

last year. He got his second victory this season and 11th of his career, beating Martin by 8.149 seconds on the high-banked concrete oval. Martin got his fourth Dover victory in June.

"We made some adjustments but we didn't have to make many," Newman said. "Once you get it right on this concrete it stays right."

Busch was happy with his best Dover finish.

"We just lost the handle on it in the corners," he said. "I was trying to hold off Jarrett but I couldn't."

Martin now tied with Jimmie Johnson for fourth place in the series, said he got all he could out of his car.

"The race was decided on the last restart," he said. "I found out what the 12 (Newman) really had."

Struggles vs. Stanford hurt No. 1-ranked USC

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Southern California's hold on No. 1 loosened after the Trojans struggled against Stanford.

USC received 46 first-place votes in The Associated Press poll released Sunday, eight fewer than last week.

The team that benefited most from Southern California's come-from-behind 31-28 victory on Saturday was idle Oklahoma. The second-ranked Sooners got 18 first-place votes and narrowed the gap between them and the Trojans to 35 points (1,605-1,570). USC trailed 28-17 at the half to Stanford, but never panicked.

"It was fun," USC quarterback Matt Leinart said. "We haven't had too many close games."

The Trojans' defense came alive in the second half, shutting out the Cardinal and allowing just

36 yards. Meanwhile, Leinart and tailbacks Reggie Bush and Lendale White made key plays offensively to secure the Trojans' 13th straight victory.

"I know people wonder how you have games like this," Trojans coach Pete Carroll said. "It ain't going to be easy. It's hard to do this week after week."

And it's going to get harder for the Trojans.

USC is off next week before heading to California on Oct. 9. Cal was the last team to beat the Trojans, winning 34-31 in triple overtime last season.

USC's close call was part of another perfect weekend for ranked teams. The 19-0 performance — 17-0 in Saturday's games — left the Top 25 virtually unchanged.

Georgia was No. 3 followed by Miami, Texas, West Virginia and Ohio State. No. 8 Auburn and No. 9 Florida State flip-flopped — the teams are separated by only 19



Tailback Reggie Bush and the rest of the USC Trojans had trouble getting past Stanford on Saturday.

points — and California and Tennessee tied for No. 10 with 1,033 points each.

No teams fell out of the rankings or moved more than two spots in either direction. No. 23 Boise State, which needed a late missed field goal by BYU to extend its winning streak to 15 games, fell two spots.

The USA Today/ESPN coaches poll had the same top five teams as the AP.

Sports' highest court hears appeal in Hamm medal flap

The Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Paul Hamm appeared before the sports world's highest court Monday to argue why he should keep his Olympic gymnastics gold medal.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport convened to hear the appeal from a South Korean who lost the gold medal in the men's all-around at last month's Athens Olympics because of a scoring error.

Yang Tae-yong wants CAS to order international gymnastics officials to change the rankings and give him the gold and Hamm the silver. Hamm and the U.S. Olympic Committee promise to vigorously fight Yang's appeal.

"That's why we're all here, to keep the medal," Hamm told Associated Press Television News as he arrived in Switzerland.

"After it's all done, hopefully the medal will stay with me."

Sports briefs

Robinson to retire from UNLV

LAS VEGAS — UNLV coach John Robinson will retire at the end of the season because of family issues, leaving the struggling program with one year left on his contract.

The Rebels fell to 0-4 after a 31-21 loss at home to Utah State on Saturday. Robinson, who had two coaching stints at Southern California and another with the NFL's Los Angeles Rams, is 26-37 in six seasons with UNLV.

Leslie is WNBA's top defender

LOS ANGELES — Lisa Leslie of the Los Angeles Sparks was named the WNBA's defensive player of the year Sunday.

Yolanda Griffith of the Sacramento Monarchs finished second in voting by a national panel of sportswriters and broadcasters.

Pitching (16 Decisions)
Clemens, Houston, 18-4, .818; Milton, Philadelphia, 14-4, .778; Carpenter, St. Louis, 15-7, .750; Lima, Los Angeles, 13-5, .722; Marouf,

Anaheim claws within one of A's

Glaus drives in three runs as Angels batter ineffective ace Mulder

BY BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Angels know they're about to bounce back. John Lackey felt behind early before Anaheim rallied behind three RBIs from Troy Glaus to beat Oakland 6-2 on Sunday and close within one game of the AL West-leading Athletics with a week to play.

"We got to be pushing," Lackey said. "We got to be at our best these next couple of games."

After losing Friday's series opener, the Angels won two straight and head to Texas for a four-game series starting Monday before closing with three games at Oakland. The A's, who hold a two-game lead over the Rangers, host Seattle for four games starting Monday.

"It's going to be an interesting finish," Oakland manager Ken Mack said.

Mack Mulder (17-7) was knocked out in the fourth inning, his shortest outing this season. Oakland, which has had sole possession of the division lead since Aug. 6, dropped to 10-14 in September.

"If we don't turn it around, we're in trouble," left fielder Eric Byrnes said.

Before the game, the Angels suspended left fielder Jose Guillen for the rest of the season for an outburst after being lifted for a pinch runner a day earlier and said he would remain suspended if the team advances to the postseason. Guillen is hitting .294 with 297 homers and a career-high 140 RBIs.

"He understands the line he crossed," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "We had to do something with Jose. It was an issue getting the way of time winning."

Lackey (14-12) gave up two runs and four hits in seven innings, improving to 10-4 since June 16 and squaring the season series 8-8.

"My changeup has made my fastball more effective. It's really been a great tool for me. I



Troy Glaus is welcomed back to the Angels dugout after his third-inning home against Oakland.

had a breakthrough game with it against Texas," he said, referring to a July 28 victory. "Ever since then I've really trusted it."

Glaus and David Eckstein homered for Anaheim, which pulled away with two runs in the eighth off Arthur Rhodes.

Mulder gave up four runs and six hits in 3 1/3 innings, his second straight poor performance. On Tuesday, he lasted four innings in a 9-4 loss at Texas, giving up nine runs.

"Everything kind of feels flat, and nothing is really sinking the way it should. It's just kind of sliding across the strike zone, and that's making things a little more hittable," Mulder said. "He usually would never come at me that early, but I've also never pitched the way that I'm pitching right now. I'm not going to help the team by doing what I'm doing."

Mulder is scheduled to start Friday, but Macha said he would discuss it with the left-hander on Monday.

"It's extremely difficult. He's our horse. We've relied on him all year," Macha said. "The kid does nothing but give you all he's got out there, but we're in a pennant race."

Eric Chavez hit a sacrifice fly to drive in Oakland's first run in the first inning, but Glaus' RBI single tied the game in the bottom half.

Guillen's replacement, Adam Riggs, gave the Angels a 2-1 lead with an RBI double in the second. Glaus hit a two-run homer in the third that made it 4-1.

One of Lackey's two wild pitches led to Oakland's second run, scoring Byrnes in the fifth.

Oakland put two on with one out in the eighth, but Erubiel Durazo flied out against Francisco Rodriguez — Durazo was frustrated that he tapped his bat against his helmet — and Jermaine Dye grounded out.

Bengie Molina squeezed home a run for the Angels in the bottom half, and Eckstein homered later in the inning.

Suzuki six away from hits record

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Ichiro Suzuki moved within six of the season hits record, going 1-for-4 with an intentional walk Sunday as the Seattle Mariners beat Texas 9-0, damaging the Rangers' postseason aspirations.

Suzuki's sixth-inning single, his major league record 215th of the season, increased his hit total to 251. He has seven games remaining to reach the record of 257, set by George Sisler of the St. Louis Browns in 1920.

Suzuki, who was 4-for-13 in the three-game set, managed the only hit off Texas reliever Kameron Loe, who went 2 1/3 innings as the Rangers' only effective pitcher of the day.

Texas, meanwhile, managed just three hits off rookies Cha Seung Baek and Scott Archison.

"Any loss at this point is a tough loss," Texas shortstop Michael Young said. "We realize this loss is not the end of the season, but it does make it tougher on us."

The Rangers started their final homestand with a three-game sweep of AL West-leading Oakland, advancing the starting trio of Mark Mulder, Barry Zito and Tim Lincecum. They got within two games, but missed out on a chance to get closer by losing two of three to Seattle.

The Rangers remained two back of Oakland and one behind Anaheim, which began a four-game series at Texas on Monday. After that, Anaheim plays three games against Oakland and Texas closes with three at Seattle.

Season hits leaders

Through Sept. 26			
Player	Year	No.	
1. George Sisler	1920	257	
2. Bill Terry	1930	254	
(tie) Lefty O'Doul	1929	254	
4. Al Simmons	1925	253	
5. x-Ichiro Suzuki	2004	251	
6. Rogers Hornsby	1922	250	
(tie) Chuck Klein	1930	250	
8. Ty Cobb	1911	248	
9. George Sisler	1922	246	
10. Ichiro Suzuki	2001	242	

Red Sox rolling again after rout of Yanks

The Associated Press

BOSTON — A bench-clearing confrontation and a big-name pitching matchup raised the Yankees-Red Sox rivalry a notch. And the teams could meet again in Boston's Curt Schilling (21-6) allowed one hit — Jorge Posada's two-run single in the fourth — in seven innings. New York's Kevin Brown (10-5), in his first outing since Sept. 3 when he broke his non-pitching hand while punching a clubhouse wall in frustration, retired just two batters and allowed five runs and six hits.

The Red Sox made it 7-0 in the second against Esteban Loaiza. The game settled down until the eighth, when Boston's Pedro Astacio and New York's Brad Hawkey were ejected for throwing too close to hitters.

"It's a heated rivalry," said Dave Roberts, who ducked away from Hawkey's high and tight pitch. "There's respect between the teams, but there's definitely no love lost."

The benches and bullpens cleared after the pitch to Roberts, but opposing players stayed apart. On July 24, there were



of the best pitchers to change uniforms in the offseason.

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The benches and bullpens cleared after the pitch to Roberts, but opposing players stayed apart. On July 24, there were

punches and headlocks on the same field after Boston's Bronson Arroyo hit Alex Rodriguez, who then was shoved in the face by catcher Jason Varitek after they exchanged words.

Halsey denied he was throwing at Roberts, but he and Torre were ejected because plate umpire Jim Wolf had warned both teams after Astacio's pitch flew behind Kenny Lofton in the top of the inning. Lofton said the Red Sox appeared to seek retaliation for a play in the bottom of the third when he was thrown out on a ground ball and elbowed first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz.

"The next inning, I think, they were trying to start something," Lofton said.

The next inning, though, was Schilling's word. With one out, he walked Rodriguez. Gary Sheffield and Hideki Matsui on 12 straight pitches, then allowed Posada's single to center that made it 7-2.

He struck out six, walked four, improved his home record to 12-1 and broke a tie with Minnesota's Johan Santana for the major league lead in victories.

Twins 6, Indians 2: Omar

Vizquel got a warm sendoff in possibly his final home game for Cleveland. The Indians' shortstop went 1-for-4 in the team's home finale.

Carlos Silva (14-8) allowed one run and eight hits in seven innings, improving to 4-0 in his last eight starts. The AL Central champion Twins reaped 90 victories for the third straight season as Jacques Jones had two RBIs off Francisco Cordero (0-1).

Orioles 5, Tigers 0: Rodrigo Lopez (14-8) pitched a three-hitter for his second career shutout and host Baltimore completed a 6-0 season sweep.

Miguel Tejada homered and drove in three runs, giving him a major league-leading 142 and tying the club record set in 1996 by Rafael Palmeiro. B.J. Surhoff also connected for the Orioles.

White Sox 5, Royals 1: Jon Garland (11-11) gave up one run and five hits in 8 1/3 innings and Danys Marte finished for his sixth save. Wilson Valdez hit his first career homer, a drive off Brian Anderson (5-12), as the visiting Royals dropped to 57-88, two off the club record for losses set in 2002.



San Francisco center fielder Marquis Grissom drops Milton Bradley's fly ball in the ninth inning Sunday, leading to the final Los Angeles run in the Dodgers' 7-4 victory over the Giants. L.A. leads the Giants by 2½ games in the NL West heading into the last week of the season.

Giants drop the ball

Despite Bonds' 703rd, L.A. wins two of three in S.F.

BY GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Jim Tracy has spent many evenings in the visiting manager's office in San Francisco, explaining how the Los Angeles Dodgers lost a big game or how another lost season got away.

So when the Dodgers earned a victory to take control of their division race against their longtime rivals, Tracy was determined to enjoy this room for once.

"It's a lot more fun to be here when you win," Tracy said Sunday after the Dodgers finished a 7-4 victory over the Giants.

Alex Cora homered and drove in two runs for the second straight day. Eric Gagne got the final six outs and the Dodgers moved 2½ games ahead of the Giants by taking two of three weekend games in San Francisco.

"It's right in front of us," said Shawn Green, who walked four times — including once with the bases loaded to force in the go-ahead run. "We've just got to have a solid last week of the season, and it's ours. It's pretty cut and dried."

Barry Bonds' 703rd home gave the Giants a third-inning lead, but Gagne, Cora and Green were among several heroes for the Dodgers, who manufactured more than enough runs to win it.

"It's right in front of us. We've just got to have a solid last week of the season, and it's ours."

Shawn Green
Dodgers outfielder

"We're in great shape right now," said Gagne, who got his 45th save in 47 chances. "We've still got to win some games, but it looks good."

Jayson Werth hit an early two-run homer off Brett Tomko, who lost for the first time in 12 starts since July 29. Jeff Weaver (13-12) allowed nine hits over six innings for his first victory in six starts, resourcefully keeping Los Angeles on top until his bullpen could take over.

Relievers Mike Venafro and Giovanni Carrara got big outs in the seventh, holding San Francisco to one run in its rally. The Giants put two runners on in the ninth when Bonds beat out an infield single and J.T. Snow walked, but Gagne struck out Delvis Cruz to end it.

Cruz had three hits and an RBI for the Giants (87-69), who wast-

ed a chance to reclaim the wild-card lead from the Chicago Cubs (87-68).

"This was the most mentally challenging and exhausting game I've been here," said Snow, a Giant since 1997. "The whole series was that way. We'd go up, they'd go up. We just have to play better than that all there is to it. We're doing the chasing, and we just have to play better."

Los Angeles' fifth-inning rally got an assist from third base umpire Doug Eddings, who called Cesar Izturis safe on a tag play with one out. Giants manager Felipe Alou argued the call, and several replays appeared to show Izturis was out.

Tomko (11-7) couldn't escape the fifth, leaving after Adrian Beltré drew a walk to load the bases. Tomko yelled at Eddings on the way to the dugout.

"That call at third was the difference," Tomko said. "If we get that call, I get out of the inning and I keep pitching. It changed everything."

Green then walked on a 3-2 pitch from reliever Wayne Franklin to give Los Angeles a 4-3 lead. Cora led off the sixth with a shot off Franklin, his 19th homer.

Marquis Grissom dropped Milton Bradley's fly to center for a three-base error in the ninth, allowing Green to score from first. It was Grissom's first error in 170 games.

Alou steamed after Cubs stumble in wild-card chase

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Moises Alou measured his words, trying to control his anger. Eventually, the frustration spilled over and the Chicago Cubs slugger let loose.

Alou was called out on strikes twice by plate umpire Bill Miller during a 3-2 loss Sunday to the lowly New York Mets, preventing Chicago from increasing its lead in the NL wild-card race.

"The guy had a terrible strike zone," Alou said. "It was terrible, not even close. I think because I argue, they're after me. Is it a coincidence? I don't know, but they're baiting me. It's like guarding Shaq with five fouls."

Al Leiter struck out Alou with the bases loaded to end the fifth. Alou glared at the umpire, dropped his helmet at the plate and walked away.

"It was definitely a strike. I looked at the replay," Mets catcher Juan Phillips said. "It's where it crossed the plate, not where I catch it."

In the eighth, Miller called Alou out on strikes again, and he made a long, agonizingly slow walk back to the dugout.

"I'm not a guy to complain. But just make the right call. If they make the right call, it's tied and we'd still be playing right now," Alou said.

Maybe the Cubs should be more concerned about their offense. They managed only seven runs in 30 innings over the weekend, losing two of three games to the four-place Mets.

That could be costly. Chicago is only a half-game in front of San Francisco in the



San Diego baserunner Mark Loretta scores ahead of the tag attempt by Arizona's Juan Brito during the first inning of Sunday's game. The Padres beat the Diamondbacks 7-1.

wild-card chase, with Houston and San Diego not far behind. The Giants lost 7-4 to Los Angeles.

The fifth-inning strikeout of Alou was the turning point for Leiter (10-8), who pitched two-hit ball for six innings to earn his first victory in six weeks.

"For a team that's out of it, there's a responsibility to try and win the game against a potential playoff team," Leiter said. "There's a consequence to the other team. It feels good to play well against a playoff-caliber team."

The Mets gave him an early cushion, scoring three runs in the first by capitalizing on a wild stretch by Chicago starter Kerry Wood (8-8).

Leadoff batter Jose Reyes walked, stole second and scored on a single by Kaz Matsui. After a double play, rookies Craig Bra-

zell and Victor Diaz singled. Then Eric Valenzuela and Jason Phillips were hit by pitches, forcing in one run, and a bases-loaded walk to Gerald Williams brought in another.

Astros 11, Brewers 7: Raul Chavez drove in a career-high five runs, helping visiting Houston move within 1½ games of the wild-card lead.

Lance Berkman and Jeff Kent homered for the Astros, who return home to play St. Louis and Colorado three games each in the final week of the season.

Kent hit a three-run homer off Victor Santos (11-12), pulling within two of Ryne Sandberg's major league record of 277 for a second baseman. It was Kent's 299th homer overall.

Tim Lincecum (5-7), the third of eight Astros pitchers, got the win.

Padres 7, Diamondbacks 1: Jake Peavy lowered his NL-leading ERA to 2.25 and the host Padres closed within 2½ games of the wild-card lead. San Diego remained 4½ games behind Los Angeles in the NL West.

Working on three days' rest for the first time in his 2½-year career, the 23-year-old Peavy (14-6) allowed one run and three hits in six innings. He needs to pitch 1½ more innings this season to qualify for the ERA title.

Brewers 6, Marlins 3: John Thomson (14-8) allowed one run and four hits in seven innings, improving to 5-0 in seven starts since Aug. 15. Visiting Florida has lost six straight — its longest skid since May 2003.

Chipper Jones drove in two runs for Atlanta, increasing his total to 95 with six games remaining.

Cardinals 9, Rockies 3: Albert Pujols hit his 46th homer and Jason Marquis pitched seven innings as visiting St. Louis won its fifth straight. Pujols was 4-for-5 with four RBIs.

Todd Helton hit a two-run homer, but the Rockies closed out their worst home season with a 38-43 record.

Marquis (15-6) joined Jeff Suppan, Chris Carpenter and Matt Morris to give St. Louis four 15-game winners for the first time in 60 years.

Phillies 2, Expos 1: Bobby Abreu hit a two-run double to break a solid outing by Cory Lidle (11-12). A knip cap promotion helped draw a crowd of 12,382. The Expos, expected to be relocated for 2005, began a three-game series Monday against Florida in what will likely be the final major league games in Montreal. Ivan Hernandez (11-15) allowed two runs in eight innings.

Pirates 4, Reds 2: Mike Redman hit two run-scoring singles as the host Pirates stopped a five-game skid.

Steelers prevail over hurricane, Dolphins

Roethlisberger overcomes nasty weather to put Miami in 0-3 hole

BY STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Ben Roethlisberger's first pass was his worst.

The rookie overcame a slow start, remnants of Hurricane Jeanne and the Miami Dolphins' blitzing defense to help the Pittsburgh Steelers win 13-3 Sunday night.

Making his first NFL start, Roethlisberger was intercepted on his first play. But that was his lone costly mistake despite torrential rain in the first half that made the ball and footing slippery.

"It was muddy, and it was wet, but it was a lot of fun," said Roethlisberger. The No. 11 pick in the April draft, "To come out playing in a hurricane against that type of defense was a challenge for us."

Roethlisberger went 12-for-22 for 163 yards and the only touchdown. Duce Staley ran for 101 yards, and Pittsburgh's defense did the rest, forcing four turnovers and making a key fourth-down stop.

"The weather in the first half was not conducive to doing anything," said coach Bill Cowher, whose team improved to 2-1. "We couldn't even do the ball. Both teams weren't throw it. But that's the kind of football I love."

The Dolphins fell to 0-3 for the first time since 1969, the year before Don Shula became coach. They've totaled 23 points this season.

"We've got to score some points," coach Dave Wannstedt said. "Let's get right down to the bottom line. We've just got to find a way to make more plays."

Hines Ward scored all the points Pittsburgh needed by making a diving catch of a pass from Roethlisberger for a 7-yard touchdown.

Jeff Reed hit field goals of 40 and 51 yards, the latter coming after the Steelers stopped A.J. Feeley on a fourth-down quarterback sneak at midfield.

Announced attendance was 72,225, but with Florida just beginning to recover from its latest hurricane, the actual crowd was about 30,000. Officials decided Saturday to push the starting time back 7½ hours to avoid the worst of Hurricane Jeanne.

That meant a 48-hour wait in Miami before kickoff for the Steelers. The storm also forced them to sleep in stuffy rooms Saturday night, because Jeanne knocked out power at the team hotel from 8:30 p.m. to 5:20 a.m. Sunday.

"We lost power right in the mid-



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger scrambles out of the pocket against the Miami Dolphins during a downpour in the third quarter at Pro Player Stadium in Miami on Sunday.

dle of films," Roethlisberger said. "We all had flashlights, and coach Cowher was trying to come get us all to play flashlight tag in the lobby. But I don't think that anyone went."

Heavy rain in the first half left standing water in the baseball infield, which made footing especially treacherous on that part of the field. The start of the second half was delayed so the grounds crew could apply additional bags of dirt.

"That was the worst weather I ever played in," Ward said.

It turned out to be Steelers weather, and their defense

bruised more than just the Dolphins' pride. A jarring tackle by Chris Hope sent running back Lamar Gordon from the game with an injured left shoulder, and his replacement, Leonard Henry, was knocked backward by a big hit from James Farrior.

Even before the heaviest rain, the Dolphins committed three turnovers on their first seven plays. The crowd was small but vocal, booing Feeley, the rest of the Dolphins' offense and the play-calling.

"They ought to boo us the whole time," said linebacker Zach Thomas, directing his com-

ments at the entire team. "We're not making big plays. Why would you pay for a ticket?"

Miami's best drive of the night covered 44 yards, setting up a 34-yard field goal by Olindo Mare with 13:25 left to make the score 6-3. But Roethlisberger drove the Steelers 61 yards for a touchdown with six minutes left.

The last rookie quarterback to beat the Dolphins was New England's Drew Bledsoe in 1994.

"Ben played well," Cowher said. "After the first play when he threw the interception, he bounced back. After that he made good decisions."

Backup QB Collins helps Raiders beat former coach

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kerry Collins is a former Super Bowl quarterback who backs up a former NFL MVP.

Who knows for how long. Collins, injured in place of injured starter Rich Gannon, shined for the Oakland Raiders in Sunday night's emotional 30-20 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers — just like he did throughout the preseason.

When Gannon went down early after helmet-to-helmet hit, Collins took over and calmly led the Raiders in their highly anticipated reunion with former coach Jon Gruden, longtime Raiders receiver Tim Brown and running back Charlie Garner, who was likely lost for the season with a torn patellar tendon in his right knee.

As well as things went, Collins isn't counting on taking over the No. 1 job anytime soon.

"I know this, Rich Gannon is a tough guy, and if he's ready to go next week he'll be in there," said Collins, who joined the Raiders in May after the New York Giants released him when they acquired No. 1 pick Eli Manning.

"I'm just glad it wasn't real, real serious. Any time you get hit in the head like that, bad things can happen."



Oakland Raiders quarterback Rich Gannon grimaces after he was tackled by Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebacker Derrick Brooks.

Collins led four scoring drives, completing 16-of-27 passes for 228 yards and one touchdown.

After Jerry Rice's record receptions streak was snapped last week, Brown owns the longest active run, and he extended it to 176 games on a 7-yard reception with 14:29 left. Brown's 16-yard TD reception with 10:45 left was his 100th career touchdown catch — and the Bucs' first offensive TD of the season.

Brown passed Hall of Famer Don Hut-

son for fourth in career touchdown catches. He received a warm ovation from the otherwise hostile Raider Nation.

Brown, who spent his first 16 NFL seasons with the Raiders (2-1), was released during training camp when he refused to accept a drastically reduced role.

"To get 100 in front of the Raider Nation, there's no better place," Brown said.

There were more handshakes before this one than at a political fund-raiser. Warren Sapp had to love it.

Oakland's loquacious defensive tackle said this game was for bragging rights, and he beat his old team handily.

"Big buildup, great game and the right outcome," Sapp said.

Sapp, who led his new team onto the field, never played football outside of Florida until agreeing to a seven-year, \$36.6 million free agent contract after the Bucs didn't re-sign him.

Tampa Bay (0-3) looks nothing like the team that beat Oakland 48-21 in the 2003 Super Bowl in Gruden's first year as Bucs coach.

Before Brown's touchdown, Martin Gramatica kicked field goals of 36 and 30 yards. He missed a 44-yarder.

Brad Johnson threw for 309 yards, but Phillip Buchanon intercepted a pass and returned it 32 yards in the third quarter to

make it 23-6. Tyrone Wheatley capped his 102-yard day with a 2-yard score.

Collins connected with Ronald Curry for a 19-yard TD just before halftime — a play that included a key block by Rice.

Gannon left in the first quarter after the vicious hit by linebacker Derrick Brooks. Coach Norv Turner said Gannon hurt his neck, but added, "It doesn't seem to be too serious."

Gannon was taken to the locker room for examination, then returned to the sideline in the second half.

Garner was carted off the field with 5:57 left before halftime and didn't return.

Gruden, who coached the Raiders for four seasons, is 0-3 for the first time in his career, and Tampa Bay has lost five straight games dating to last season. The coach dressed in all black for a change, as if making a statement to his old team. He was on the field early saying hello to friends, then was booed when he ran onto the field before the game. He ran right past Raiders owner Al Davis without stopping.

"I don't mean any disrespect. I wasn't greeted very nicely," Gruden said. "I've got a full understanding of Raiders fans and the Black Hole. God bless them. ... It was a great feeling for me. It is one of the more exciting times in my career to go back where I came from."

Sebastian Janikowski kicked three field goals for Oakland.

Saints rally to snap Rams' streak at home

St. Louis stopped at 15 wins with OT loss

BY R.B. FALLSTROM

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Aaron Brooks stayed calm when he needed to rally the New Orleans Saints.

He had to do it twice. Brooks led a game-tying drive just before the end of regulation, then set up John Carney's 31-yard winning field goal in overtime in a 26-25 win Sunday over St. Louis, ending the Rams' 15-game regular-season home winning streak.

Brooks needed 22 seconds to lead the drive that forced overtime.

Then, after the Rams won the coin flip and went nowhere, Brooks calmly engineered the game-winning drive.

"It comes down to big plays, and our team knows that the more plays we make, the better off we'll be," Brooks said. "I think that was pretty much the difference down the stretch."

The Saints (2-1), who used to be bitter rivals in the NFC West with the Rams, have won their last three games in St. Louis.

"A lot of guys stepped up to the plate and made a lot of plays," coach Jim Haslett said. "I can't even name them all."

Fill-in running back Aaron Stecker had his first career 100-yard game to ease the loss of Deuce McAllister. Carney kicked five field goals and defensive end Charles Grant had three of his team's five sacks.

Isaac Bruce had his third straight 100-yard receiving day for the Rams, who are 1-2 for the second straight year. Last season they ended up winning the NFC West with a 12-4 record.

"I don't think we're floundering," offensive guard Adam Timmerman said. "That's a pretty bold statement. We are a team and we have to stick together right now."

Brooks was 24-for-41 for 316 yards and a touchdown, producing points on five straight possessions at one point, and was at his best when the Saints needed him most.

On the winning drive, he was 3-for-4 for 42 yards, and his 12-yard bootleg run to the St. Louis 13 set up Carney's 31-yard field goal on the next play. Brooks also helped the Saints rebound immediately after Marc Bulger's 19-yard scramble gave the Rams a 25-22 lead with 28 seconds left in regulation.

New Orleans started at its own 42 after Jeff Wilkins hit a line-drive squib kick to avoid return man Michael Lewis, and Brooks hit Lewis for 25 yards and Boo Williams for 13 to put Carney in position for the game-tying 38-yard field goal with 2 seconds left.

"It's not me alone," Brooks said. "It's the guys around me playing their heart out."

The unsung Stecker, who played at West-ern Illinois — the Rams' training home —



New Orleans Saints running back Aaron Stecker (27) heads for the end zone on a 42-yard touchdown run against the St. Louis Rams in the second quarter in St. Louis on Sunday.

was at the top of the list. He had 106 yards on 18 carries including a 42-yard scoring run to keep the Saints' running game clicking without McAllister, sidelined with a high ankle sprain.

"I had a lot of motivation this week," Stecker said. "Anytime I was watching ESPN or the NFL Network or looking at the paper it was like the season's done with, they've got a guy named Aaron Stecker, who's he? He hasn't done much, he ain't

going to do anything."

Bruce caught eight passes for 134 yards and Bulger was 32-for-49 for 358 yards and a touchdown. But the Rams never got the running game going, with 78 yards on only 15 carries against a team that allowed an NFL-high 147.5 yards a game the first two games.

Marshall Faulk had more yards in the air (five catches for 46) yards than on the ground (44 yards on 12 carries).

Seahawks defense shuts down 49ers to stay perfect

BY TIM KORTE

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Start with eager youngsters who love to hit opposing receivers and ball carriers. Add a few aggressive veterans who fly to the ball. Hire a top-flight coordinator to coach them.

What do you get? The Seattle Seahawks on defense.

The Seahawks shut out San Francisco 34-0 Sunday, the first time the 49ers failed to score since a 7-0 loss to Atlanta at Candlestick Park on Oct. 9, 1977, breaking the team's NFL record spanning 40 regular season and 36 playoff games.

"At halftime, we came in and talked about it," defensive tackle Cedric Woodard said. "We had a chance to stop them, and they hadn't been shut out since the '70s. It sure was nice to be in that position. It was even better to go out and do it."

Matt Hasselbeck threw for 254 yards and two touchdowns, and Shaun Alexander scored three TDs to provide the offense for Seattle (3-0).

But the defense, which has allowed only 13 points in its first three games, simply shut down the 49ers (0-3).

Second-year quarterback Ken Dorsey was 19-for-32 for 153 yards with two interceptions. San Francisco had only 48 yards rushing and converted two of 13



Seattle Seahawks' Bobby Engram, left, fends off San Francisco 49ers' Jimmy Williams after catching a pass for a 60-yard gain in the first quarter in Seattle on Sunday.

third-down attempts.

Seattle swiped two fumbles, with the four takeaways leading to 10 easy points. Behind them, defensive coordinator Ray Rhodes, who tells his players to run to the ball and force turnovers.

"They don't know what they don't know," coach Mike Holmgren said. "They are just flying around, doing what they are

told to do."

The offense looked better after sputtering last week at Tampa Bay. Hasselbeck was 21-for-30, throwing a 3-yard TD pass to Alexander in the first quarter and adding a 1-yard TD pass in the third to Itula Mili.

Too bad the Seahawks can't play again next weekend. Seattle has a bye before St. Louis visits Oct. 10.

"I am most pleased that it was really a total team win — about as good as you can get," Holmgren said.

That's not how things looked for San Francisco. The 49ers were missing receiver Brandon Lloyd (groin) and tackle Kwame Harris (ankle). Center Jeremy Newberry had knee surgery last week.

But coach Dennis Erickson

wasn't offering excuses.

"We didn't play well against a good football team," he said. "We turned it over early in the game, got ourselves in a hole. We were lucky to finish the game. We just didn't play very well."

When the 49ers threatened in the fourth, Ken Hamlin made an interception in the end zone. San Francisco then drove to the Seattle 32 but Chike Olesfor sacked Dorsey to force another fumble and Rashad Moore covered the loose ball.

The Seahawks also got big defensive performances from end Grant Wistrom, linebacker Anthony Simmons, cornerbacks Ken Lucas and Marcus Truitt, tackle Rocky Bernard and many others.

"It doesn't matter who gets the game ball," Moore said. "It was a day where you feel you're left out if you're not the guy making plays."

After wins on two long trips to New Orleans and Tampa Bay, the Seahawks kept rolling at home. They went 8-0 last season in Seattle and have won 10 straight at home going back to 2002.

"We're hot right now," Wistrom said. "We just have to continue to stay hungry and go out and try to prove something every week."

The Jags' edge: Defense

Jacksonville stifles McNair, beats Titans to improve to 3-0

By TERESA M. WALKER

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — If this keeps up, the Jacksonville Jaguars better not be called lucky for much longer.

Fred Taylor scored with 9 seconds left, and the Jaguars beat the Tennessee Titans 15-12 on Sunday and improved to 3-0, with each game won in the final seconds.

"Hopefully, we opened up some eyes," Jaguars defensive tackle Marcus Stroud said.

"If not, that's good for us, too. Let us continue to sneak in under the radar. Right now we're playing good ball, and I think people are taking notice."

Jacksonville's doing it with a defense that has allowed just 28 points on an offense that has scored only 35.

On Sunday, the Jaguars even sent 2003 co-MVP Steve McNair to the hospital for the night with a bruised sternum. He was hurt when he scrambled for 14 yards on a third-and-10 late in the fourth quarter.

The Jaguars also sacked McNair three times, intercepted him once and held the Titans (1-2) to 249 yards of offense.

"Our defense is outstanding," Taylor said. "They kept us in it and give us a chance to win. I don't want to say we have the luxury of starting slow, because that just isn't how you want to play."

The Jaguars now sit alone atop the AFC South after opening the season by downing Buffalo on a touchdown pass with no time left, then recovering a fumble to seal a victory over Denver last week.

This win means much more than the franchise's first 3-0 start since 1998. This came against the team that had won nine of 11 in this series, including all three in 1999 when the Titans won the AFC championship.

Receiver Jimmy Smith, one of four Jaguars left from that 1999



Jacksonville Jaguars tight end George Wrinthier (87) dives over Tennessee Titans cornerback Samari Rolle (21) to score a touchdown on a 7-yard run Sunday, in Nashville, Tenn. The Jaguars won 15-12.

team, said it remains to be seen if this marks a turning point in the season.

"But to beat Tennessee is a big victory for this franchise," he said.

Byron Leftwich threw for 124 yards and a touchdown. He also directed the 13-play, 69-yard drive that Taylor capped with the go-ahead TD, and Leftwich provided the final cushion with a 2-point conversion to Reggie Williams after Taylor's TD.

Chris Brown snapped the Jaguars' NFL-best streak of not allowing a 100-yard rusher in 17 games. Brown ran 23 times for 101 yards and a 26-yard TD that put the Titans up 12-7 with 5:27 left.

McNair's last play was a 2-point conversion pass that went high over Derrick Mason in the end zone. He then took off his shoulder pads, bent over and had

a team doctor inspect his breathing.

He was admitted to the hospital when further tests were negative.

"I don't tell Steve not to run," Titans coach Jeff Fisher said. "He took this game over and gave us a chance to put a scoring drive together with the two runs. That's the risk he takes."

The Titans dominated the first half, holding the ball for nearly 20 minutes. But they got only field goals of 26 and 40 yards from Gary Anderson, then started the second half by going three-and-out twice.

Now the Titans have lost consecutive games at home for the first time since 2002 and back-to-back conference games for the first time since 2001. Now they face two straight road games and the possibility of a 1-4 start.

They did just that in 2002 when they reached the AFC championship game.

Running backs

■ Onterio Smith, Vikings, had 94 yards rushing and 104 yards receiving in a 27-21 win over Chicago. In the same game, Thomas Jones rushed for 110 yards and added 71 yards receiving for the Bears.

■ Jamal Lewis, Ravens, ran for 186 yards, including a 75-yard touchdown sprint that clinched a 23-9 victory over the Bengals. Lewis has topped 100 yards in all seven career games against Cincinnati.

■ Chris Brown, Titans, became only the second back since 1970 to rush for 100 yards in each of his first three starts with 101 vs. Jacksonville, Stump Mitchell did it in his first four starts with the then-St. Louis Cardinals in 1980.

■ Aaron Stecker, Saints, replacing injured Deuce McAllister, entered the game at St. Louis with 443 yards rushing in four-plus seasons. He had 106 yards on 18 carries Sunday, including a 42-yard touchdown run, in a 28-25 win over the Rams.

■ Tim Barber, Giants, had 106 yards rushing and an 8-yard touchdown and added 48 yards receiving in a 27-10 win over Cleveland.



Houston Texans wide receiver Derick Armstrong (88) gets past Kansas City Chiefs safety Greg Wesley (25) in the fourth quarter, setting up a 49-yard game-winning field goal. The Texans beat the Chiefs 24-21.

Chiefs throw away chance at first win

By STEVE BREISNDEN

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs were 2 yards away from taking a double-digit lead against Houston, hoping to avoid their first 0-3 start in 24 years.

Then Trent Green hung a badly thrown pass and Marcus Coleman took advantage.

Coleman intercepted the ball and raced 102 yards for a third-quarter touchdown, keeping the defending AFC West champs from taking a 15-point lead. Instead, the Texans tied it at 14 and eventually won 24-21 when Kris Brown kicked a 49-yard field goal with 2 seconds left.

"That was a huge play he made," Houston coach Dom Capers said. "That got us back in the game."

Kansas City, 13-3 a year ago, is 0-3 for the first time since starting the 1980 season 0-4. The Chiefs became the fourth team since 1990 to start 0-3 after making the playoffs the previous season.

Coleman's return was the longest defensive touchdown ever given up by the Chiefs, and the longest in Houston's two-plus seasons. It came after the Texans (1-2) stuffed the best running back in Chiefs history for a loss near the goal line.

Priest Holmes, who broke Christian Okoye's career rushing record with 134 yards Sunday, lost a yard on first-and-goal from the 1.

The Chiefs decided to try a pass in the right flat to tight end Tony Gonzalez, who had already caught the first of Green's three scoring passes.

Gonzalez turned around, just in time to see Coleman snag the ball and take off down the left sideline. Holmes caught him just outside the end zone, but was unable to strip the ball.

"It feels like someone's got me in a headlock, and I can't get out of it," said Gonzalez, whose 14-yard catch gave Kansas City a 7-0 lead in the first quarter.

Holmes played despite a sprained ankle. He broke Okoye's record of 4,897 yards midway through the third quarter, on a 7-yard run up the middle, and finished the game with 4,941 yards.

After the interception return, the Chiefs went up 21-14 on Green's 5-yard pass to Jason Dunn with just under 11 minutes left.

But Kansas City's defense suddenly found itself susceptible to the long pass.

Derick Armstrong had a 20-yard catch on third-and-17, followed by Andre Johnson's leaping, juggling 37-yard reception over cornerback Eric Warfield to set up David Carr's 9-yard pass to Jabar Gaffney to tie it at 21. On Houston's final drive, Armstrong hauled in a 35-yarder to get the Texans within field goal range.

"I was pleased with our run defense," Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil said. "They got some throws on us, no question. We lost a very disheartening football game, and it'll hurt."

Sunday's NFL stars:

Quarterbacks

■ Peyton Manning, Colts, threw for 393 yards and five first-half touchdowns in a 45-11 win over Green Bay. He had the most TD throws in one half since Tommy Lincecum's 1986, and set a franchise record, 247, since Bomper Eason in 1996.

■ Brett Favre, Packers, threw for 358 yards and four TDs in the same game.

■ Dante Culpepper, Vikings, passed for 360 yards and two TDs and ran for a score in a 27-22 win over Chicago.

■ Aaron Brooks, Saints, was 24-for-41 for 316 yards and a touchdown, and guided a losing losing lead in a 28-25 overtime, New Orleans beat St. Louis 28-25 in overtime. Mark Bulger, Rams, was 32-for-49 for 358 yards and a TD pass and a touchdown run.

■ Donovan McNair, Eagles, threw for 356 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a score in Philadelphia's 30-13 win at Detroit.



Receivers

■ Randy Moss, Vikings, had 119 yards receiving and two TDs in a 27-22 victory against the Bears.

■ Isaac Bruce, Rams, caught eight passes for 134 yards, his third straight 100-yard game. The last time Bruce had three straight 100-yard receiving games was in 1995, when he had six in a row.

■ Rookie Roy Williams, Lions, had nine receptions for 135 yards and 75, the second straight week he scored twice, but Detroit lost to Philadelphia 30-17.

■ Reggie Wayne, Colts, made 11 receptions for 184 yards and a TD, while Brandon Stokley had eight catches for 110 yards and two scores in a 45-31 win over the Packers. Both were career highs for yardage.

■ Javon Walker, Packers, had 11 receptions for 188 yards and three TDs in the same game. He, too, set a career high in catches and yards.



SPORTS

Dynamic duel



Gordon moves to front
in quest for fifth Cup title,
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AP photos

Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, above, threw five touchdowns in the first half and finished with 393 yards passing. His five TDs losses were the most in a half since Minnesota's Tommy Kramer threw five in 1996. Packers quarterback Brett Favre, left, had 358 yards passing and four touchdowns in a losing effort.

Manning, Favre combine for 751 yards, 9 TDs in Colts' win

BY MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning and Brett Favre threw touchdown pass after touchdown pass, moving the ball as if the defenses were little more than speed bumps.

The dizzying array of offense produced nine touchdowns and no interceptions. Midway through the fourth quarter, Favre mounted another drive, hoping to throw for another score.

That is, until rookie cornerback Jason David stepped up.

David ripped the ball away from Javon

Walker, and Nick Harper recovered the fumble to help preserve the Colts' 45-31 victory Sunday.

"As soon as I got to the guy, the ball was showing," David said. "It's kind of early in the season, but every chance we get to make the big play, we've got to make it."

The play changed the complexion of a game that had been anything but defensive.

Favre and Manning combined to throw for 751 yards. Eleven minutes into the game, the Colts (2-1) and Packers (1-2) had already combined for 35 points. The Colts ran the ball only once in the first 15 minutes — a play negated by an offside penalty — while Manning threw for 247 yards and three TDs in the first quarter alone.

Neither team had an answer until David and Harper teamed to produce the only significant turnover of the game.

"This was a game of two guys who didn't want to lose," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "I hadn't seen Brett in three years, and I can't say that I miss him."

The MVP quarterbacks lived up to their billing with mind-boggling numbers.

Manning completed 28 of 40 passes for 393 yards and five touchdowns, his third regular-season game since Sept. 28, 2003, with at least five TD passes. Manning threw all five in the first half, the first time a quarterback threw that many in a half

since Minnesota's Tommy Kramer did it in 1986.

Favre nearly matched him, finishing 30-for-44 for 358 yards and four touchdowns, including a 79-yarder to Walker, before sitting out the Packers' final series with an injured left hamstring. Favre said it wasn't serious enough to keep him out of action next week.

Receivers on both sides also had career days.

Reggie Wayne caught 11 passes for 184 yards, both career-highs, and one TD. Brandon Stokley caught eight passes for a career-high 110 yards and two TDs.

SEE DUEL ON PAGE 31



**Surprising starts:
Jaguars make it
three straight wins
in final seconds
while Texans' late FG
drops Chiefs to 0-3**

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**Angels' rally
pulls them
within one game
of Athletics
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